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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

M. F. EGAN, Business Manager.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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VOL. XI. PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 31, 1873. NO. 93.

FIRST EDITION

Strike of the Engineers.

Crestline.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CRESTLINE, O., December 30, 1873.

The patience and forbearance of the officials of the railroad apparently became exhausted last night, for the general foreman of the company's shops at this point finally stated to the persisting engineers that but one course was open to them if they wished to return to their engines, and that was to surrender unconditionally to the company's orders at once, or take their discharge certificates, draw their pay and leave the service of the road for all time. This had the effect of bringing all but one or two of the leaders to terms and, as a consequence, the freight trains began moving between here and Alliance to-day, while the passenger trains continue to run on time the entire length of the road. David Peppard, foreman of the round house here, and a leading officer of the Brotherhood organization, ran the engine on the Pittsburgh express from here to Alliance this morning—another evidence that the Brotherhood disountenances the strike—and although it will take several days to restore trains to their former regularity, the back-bone of the rebellion is undoubtedly broken. No disturbances have occurred and none are apprehended, although the companies have taken the precaution to secure the services of an ample police force on a moment's call, in case of any attempts at intimidation from reckless or transient characters. John E. Thompson is the name of the engineer of the first freight train to leave Alliance to-day for the west. In the face of all the opposition at that point, the Western Division engineers continue firm in their resolution not to join the strikers. Engineers from a distance have arrived and found ready employment here and at Pittsburgh, which is an evidence of the company's determination to dispense with the services of the ringleaders. Public opinion is strongly in favor of the company all along the line of the road.

Alliance, O.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ALLIANCE, O., December 30, 1873.

The striking engineers are very quiet and orderly here to-day. All passenger trains have been run on time by old and experienced engineers. The strikers have had committees wait on these men to induce them to quit work, but so far have failed. Four freight trains are running between Alliance and Crestline, and three east of Alliance. A sufficient police force is on hand to protect all the men at work.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

ALLIANCE, O., December 30, 1873.

As there seems to be a misunderstanding as to the conduct of the railroad strikers at this point, I wish to inform the readers of your valuable sheet, that the best order prevails, the men all the time counseling the observance of law and order. It is true that some few policemen were brought here from Cleveland by the Company, owing to the number of strikers laying here; but in reality there was no cause for it whatever, as no demonstration has yet been made by the men to do violence to either property or person. I write this in justice to the men, who have been misrepresented by parties who seem to desire trouble instead of quiet. The men confine themselves most of the time to their room, and our citizens are somewhat divided in opinion as to the course of the men and the Company; but all parties desire that no violence shall be resorted to under any event. MACK.

Fort Wayne.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., December 30, 1873.

Matters on the Wabash road are going smoothly. The fears of a strike, which have been entertained the last few days, have passed away. The officials are firm, and the men have about concluded that the best thing to do is to go on with their work. Not a man on the Western Division of the Fort Wayne road has quit work. The prospects are that there will be no trouble. All passenger trains are on time, but freight business is very light.

No sights of trouble have been exhibited on the Muncie and Richmond, Grand Rapids or Saginaw roads, and it is certain that the backbone of the strike is broken and within a couple of days everything will be harmonious.

Logansport, Ind.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LOGANSPORT, IND., December 30, 1873.

A squad of twenty picked Indianapolis police, armed with Spencer rifles, arrived early this morning. There has been no violence offered to-day, and mail trains have all been run on the second and third divisions of the Indianapolis and Chicago division of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad. Large numbers are deserting the ranks of the strikers and coming to the side of law and order. Engineers sufficient to supply the places of the strikers are easily being obtained, and it is expected that all trains will be running in two or three days. Conductors, brakemen and employees severally have informed the Company of their and are protecting the company's property. Handbills, offering $1,000 reward for information to lead to the arrest and conviction of any parties interfering with the company's property or employees, have been circulated over all the divisions, putting all the country authorities on the lookout. Engineer Keelan, of the Detroit and Eel River Railroad, accidentally shot brakeman Beidler, of the same road, in the left breast, here this morning. Keelan is being held, awaiting the result of Beidler's wound.

Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS, December 30.—The engineers' strike still continues without material change. One passenger train went west this forenoon on the Pan Handle road, and one on the Jeffersonville road, and trains have arrived on both. The Vincennes road is running its passenger trains regularly. Rumors are still current of a general strike on all roads, but seem to be without foundation. From present appearances the strike is nearly at an end.

INDIANAPOLIS, December 30.—Nothing particularly new in railroad circles to-day. The Pan Handle officials say they will have regular trains running to-morrow. Dennison No. 11, of the Brotherhood, publish a card in the morning papers to-morrow, in which they disavow all responsibility and complicity in the acts of violence committed, and are willing to submit the matter in controversy to investigation and abide by the verdict of an impartial tribunal.

John Fehrenbach, President of the Machinists' and Blacksmiths' International Union, is in the city and addressed the Brotherhood upon the situation. The meeting was secret and no particulars can be obtained.

Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, December 30.—Superintendent Ellison, of the Cincinnati division of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railway, has secured the services of nine engineers for passenger trains, and needs four more. He has had hundreds of applications since the strike. All passenger trains, except one accommodation, left on time to-day. All will leave to-morrow, and way freight trains will commence moving. One engineer, supposed to be a striker, took a locomotive out, suffered it to burn and was discharged. He has intelligence by telegraph from Pittsburgh that the strikers in that city have come to the terms of the company. The striking engineers here refuse to compromise in a great majority of cases, and say they have means to hold out six months, and that the Brotherhood of Engineers will aid them. At the round house of the railway in this city affected by the strike, the locomotive tenders and boilers are always examined before going out, windows of the house all nailed down, and doors all but one are locked. Yet engines have been found in the tenders of which soap and concentrated lye have been placed. Superintendent Ellison says the back-bone of the strike has been broken. The road is carefully patrolled from here to Columbus. He says all trains, freight and passenger will run on time to-morrow night.

The engineers' strike has assumed a tone of determined quietness here. There is no trouble on the Lake Shore road, but trains are terribly crowded and all late at Alliance. There was trouble apprehended, but so far all is quiet. A squad of Cleveland police are on duty there.

Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, December 30.—The situation at this terminus of the Jefferson, Madison and Indianapolis Railroad remains unchanged. None of the strikers have resumed work, while several outside men employed by the company gave up their engines to-day. Their places were afterwards supplied. But very little business is done on the road. At Seymour, on the line, a nut was to-day placed in such a position as to burst the cylinder and entirely disable an engine. On the New Albany branch, last night, a large rock was thrown at an engineer, but, missing him, shivered the window of a passenger coach, hurting no one. No other violence is reported.

Columbus.

COLUMBUS, December 30.—The striking engineers here exhibit no disposition to go to work at the company's terms. Nevertheless, Superintendent Atwell reports the acquisition of quite a number of engineers, and trains will move regularly to-morrow. A considerable quantity of delayed freight was moved out to-night. The general impression here is that the strike will break within the week.

Cleveland.

CLEVELAND, December 30.—Railroad matters are quiet here. There are rumors that the engineers on the Lake Shore line will strike on Monday or Tuesday next, but no definite information can be obtained. Those who have the best means of information say no strike is contemplated.

Lafayette, Ind.

LAFAYETTE, December 30.—All quiet in railroad circles. No signs of a strike on Toledo, Wabash and Western road, reports to the contrary notwithstanding.

J. MAHER, Sr.,

Practical Chemist, has returned after four months' absence and resumed business at No. 64 Water street, city.

FIRE RECORD.

A $50,000 Blaze at Detroit.

DETROIT, December 30.—A fire this morning destroyed the store of Farrington, Campbell & Co., wholesale dealers in tea, coffee and spices, 73 and 75 Jefferson avenue. Estimated loss on the stock between fifty and sixty thousand dollars, at least twenty thousand of which is covered by insurance. The building is owned by Julius Robinson, and is badly damaged.

CRIMES.

Car Robber Convicted at Canton, O.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CANTON, O., December 30, 1873.

George Smith, one of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad car robbers, was tried to-day and convicted by the jury of grand larceny. The judge has not yet given sentence. Several others, on the same charge, are to be tried this week.

Piecing the Responsibility for a Railroad Slaughter.

BIDDEFORD, ME., December 30.—The coroner's jury in the recent Eastern Railroad collision has given a verdict charging that the accident was caused by the inconsistency and negligence of Wing, the dispatcher; a gross error in the judgment of White, the Kennebeck operator, and culpable recklessness of Petty, the conductor, and Morrison, the engineer, of the down freight train.

Assault with Intent to Kill.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CLEVELAND, O., December 30, 1873.

Jacob Brown and Philip Rad cliffe were committed to jail last night for an assault with intent to kill George McCrea.

A Kentucky Jail Fired and Destroyed.

LOUISVILLE, December 30.—A special to the *Courier-Journal* from Lagrange, Ky., says that the county jail in that place was set on fire by a prisoner this afternoon and entirely destroyed. The incendiary was secured.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Efforts to Open the Clinton (Iowa) Bridge to All Roads.

DUBUQUE, IOWA, December 30.—Petitions are in circulation through Northern Iowa, asking Congress to extend to the Clinton bridge the law authorizing the construction of bridges across the Mississippi river and throwing them open to all railroads wishing to use them as postal routes by the payment of tolls. The Clinton bridge was built before the enactment of this law, and the Northwestern Railroad having leased it refuses other roads access to it. Congress is asked to compel them to do it.

FISH.

Missouri Teachers' Association—Lack of Public Schools Beginning to be Felt.

ST. LOUIS, December 30.—The *Democrat's* Warrensburg letter says the Twelfth Annual Convention of the Missouri State Teachers' Association convened there last night. After a brief address by General Cockerell and the President, Professor Root, Judge Krekel, of the United States District Court, spoke on the educational demands of the State. He charged in strong terms neglect of duty on the part of legislators in not providing for the thorough maintenance of public schools throughout the State as required by the Constitution, and contrasted the condition of education in this country and Europe, showing unmistakably that while the systems of the latter were far in advance of ours, the demands of a republic for educated citizenship were manifestly greater. A large number of interesting papers were read to-day, and great interest is manifested in the proceedings.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The murderer Tryons was hanged at Barrie, Canada, yesterday.

Outstanding legal tenders amount to $376,245,702.

The steamships Spain and Baltic, from Liverpool, arrived at New York yesterday.

The Cincinnati branch of the International Association of Workingmen passed a resolution last night, denouncing the newspapers unfriendly to their aid, and pledging themselves to patronize only such papers as are friendly to them.

Nilsson appeared in Cincinnati, last night, before a very large audience.

The St. Andrews Society of Cleveland, held their annual festival at the Weddle House, last evening, with over two hundred present.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

CUSHING READY FOR SPAIN

Difficulties of His Mission Discussed.

His Views on the Situation.

Earlier and Later Diplomacy Compared.

Sinking of the Virginius Likely to Complicate Negotiations.

Committee on Appropriations Waiting for Reduced Estimates.

The Indian and Naval Bills.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 30, 1873.

Cushing's Mission to Spain—Waiting for Concessions and Instruction.

Mr. Cushing will leave for Madrid immediately after action is taken by the Senate on his nomination. He stated to-day that he was ready to leave at a moment's notice, and his instructions, which will be general, are now being prepared at the Department of State. Mr. Cushing will take the most expeditious route to Madrid, as it is necessary that he should be there at the earliest possible moment. The instability of the government of Spain and the inimical sentiments entertained by the revolting factions, renders it imperatively necessary to act promptly in the diplomatic business now pending.

Mr. Cushing, in conversation to-day, remarked that the success of his mission depended largely upon

The Strength of Castelar

and the permanency of his rule. He therefore awaits the action of the Cortes, which meets next Friday, with great anxiety. If Castelar carries a majority, and continues to hold the confidence of that body, the way will be comparatively clear. If Castelar should be deposed, as some of the dispatches from Madrid indicate as possible, the attention of the new powers will be so much engrossed that, even if they were disposed, the arrival at a satisfactory solution of the pending questions between the United States and Spain would be remote. Mr. Cushing said that there were

Four Civil Wars

now raging in Spain or her territories: the Carlists in Navarre; the Communists in Cartagena; and the natives and the loyal party in Cuba. He thinks the loyal subjects in Cuba are more difficult to manage than those in actual rebellion. Mr. Cushing pays a high tribute to

Our Earlier Diplomacy,

and does not seem to have a very high opinion of the specimens we have had of late years. He speaks of the treaties negotiated by Jackson, Pinckney, Jay and the other trained statesmen of the first fifty years after the Declaration of Independence as unequaled, and not only as taking a higher view of international obligations and relations than is now recognized, but containing provisions which no nation in Europe at this day would be willing to accept. He speaks of the treaty of 1795, between the United States and Spain, as one of the most liberal ever made between any nations, and more liberal than we would be able to secure now. He spoke of our treaties of that time as having been made to carry out. He thinks the treaty of 1795, with some adaptation to the circumstances which have grown up since, and particularly to embrace the complications which have arisen under our now important commercial intercourse with the West Indies, would answer every purpose.

The Results of Mr. Cushing's Mission

must be governed entirely by circumstances and the opportunities presented by the political situation. If the way is clear, an effort will be made to revise, or rather modernize our treaties with Spain, but the attention will be directed to the Virginius controversy and the subjects directly connected with it.

The House Committee on Appropriations

had a meeting this morning with all the members present. The appropriation bills generally were talked about, but as the department had failed to send in any report of reduced estimates, nothing definite could be accomplished, and the committee adjourned until Saturday next.

The Indian Bill.

Mr. Parker, of Missouri, who has charge of the Indian bill, made a special report thereon and indicated that the committee that there could be no reduction there.

The Naval Bill.

Mr. Hale, of Maine, who has charge of the naval appropriation bill, stated that there would be large reductions consequent upon the section for the year, which is taken by the government in the Virginius matter, and as it assumed now that the exigency has passed, the naval bill will probably be one of the first to be reported to Congress, while the Committee on Appropriations is waiting for these reduced estimates. There are members who contend that Congress should not have called for a reduction from the departments, but that it was the congressional prerogative to say whether appropriations should or should not be made.

Improvement of Rivers.

There is hardly a river in the West for which improvement has not been asked, and Eastern members say they are tired of voting money to relieve the rivers of obstructions for the sake of lumbermen, when the States themselves should attend to that business.

Sailing of the Virginius.

Mr. Cushing fears that the sinking of the Virginius will have a bad effect upon the future negotiations respecting her, as it will probably be difficult to convince the Spanish authorities that the loss was unavoidable.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 30, 1873.

RESIGNATION OF SICKLES — CORRESPONDENCE WITH SECRETARY FISH.

The following is the telegraphic correspondence between Secretary Fish and ex-Minister Sickles, concerning the resignation of the latter:

MADRID, December 6, 1873.

Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, Washington:

It is published semi-officially that the government disapproves of my conduct in the case of the Virginius. If in the opinion of the President my resignation would facilitate a satisfactory termination of that question, or be otherwise advantageous to the public interests, such resignation may be considered as hereby respectfully tendered.

[Signed.] SICKLES.

WASHINGTON, December 6, 1873.

Sickles, Minister, Madrid:

The alleged publication of disapproval of your conduct is entirely unauthorized. No dissatisfaction has been expressed or intimated, and it is deemed important that you remain. Your resignation at this time would not be accepted, as it would interfere with the prospects of an accommodation.

[Signed.] FISH.

MADRID, December 16, 1873.

Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, Washington:

I respectfully request that my telegram of the 6th inst., tendering my resignation, and your reply of the same date, may now be published. [Signed.] SICKLES.

WASHINGTON, December 17, 1873.

Sickles, Madrid:

Your tender of resignation was only hypothetical, and your telegram referred to alleged publications unknown here, attributing dissatisfaction which had not been expressed. Under these circumstances publication is not deemed necessary and cannot be authorized. [Signed.] FISH.

MADRID, December 20, 1873.

Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, Washington:

I respectfully renew the tender of my resignation, which I trust may be accepted now without interfering with prospects an accommodation. [Signed.] SICKLES.

WASHINGTON, December 29, 1873.

Sickles, Madrid:

Your resignation will be accepted. Letters of recall, with instructions, will be forwarded by next mail. [Signed.] FISH.

PROBABLE NATURE OF CUSHING'S INSTRUCTIONS.

The appointment of Gen. Caleb Cushing to be the successor of Gen. Sickles as Minister to Spain continues to excite comment concerning the character of the instructions he will receive from the Department of State after the confirmation of the nomination by the Senate. Although usage is opposed to an open declaration of the line of diplomacy to be pursued, it can be stated with truth that one of the subjects to which Mr. Cushing will give his attention will be the policy of political and administrative reforms in Cuba as the best means calculated to restore peace to that island and promote its prosperity, and among those reforms is included the abolition of slavery in the Antilles. These views have respectfully been enforced both in the President's annual messages and the official correspondence of Secretary Fish, and have been often communicated to the Spanish cabinet. It will be recollected that several years ago our government tendered its good offices to Spain in hope of Cuban pacification, which were respectfully declined. On the basis suggested it is not improbable that a similar tender will be again be made by the new minister, as the administration will resort to every proper expedient for the purpose of restoring peace and of protecting American interests in Cuba and adjacent waters; and there can be no doubt that an effort will be made to conclude a new commercial treaty with Spain.

OFFICIAL NEWS OF THE VIRGINIUS.

The Secretary of the Navy this afternoon received a dispatch from the commander of the Ossipee announcing that the Virginius sunk on the night of the 20th inst. off Wilmington.

SEQUEL TO THE BAR-ROOM HOMICIDE.

Heil, who last night accidentally shot and killed his wife in attempting to defend her from the assaults of three roughs, was to-day discharged from custody. The ruffians who assaulted Mrs. Heil were committed to await the action of the grand jury.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

INQUIRY INTO THE VILLE DU HAVRE DISASTER.

LONDON, December 30.—Mr. Hamel, an official of the Board of Trade, opened an inquiry into the Ville du Havre disaster to-day. He stated that the object was to elicit facts. There was no desire to prefer formal charges against any one. The second and third mates of the Loch Earn were the first witnesses examined. They testified that they did everything in their power to prevent a collision and described the efforts they made to attract the attention of those on board the steamer. The bearing of their testimony as to the conduct of the French officers after the collision, was postponed, as the latter have not yet arrived here, and the owners of the steamers had no counsel present to represent them.

MONETARY CRISIS THREATENED—FAILURES REPORTED.

Herald Special.

LONDON, December 30.—A fresh monetary crisis is apprehended at Berlin. There are rumors of heavy commercial failures there.

Russia

TREATY BETWEEN RUSSIA AND BOKHARA.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 30.—The treaty between Russia and Bokhara is published. It gives the Khiva territory, on the right bank of the Amu Daria river to Bokhara, who in return agrees to abolish slavery and establish mutual trading facilities with Russia.

Acheen.

THE DUTCH WIN A VICTORY.

PENANG, December 30.—A large force of Achenese have been defeated with heavy loss by the Dutch troops, who suffered only moderately. The health of the Dutch troops is good.

Marine News.

QUEENSTOWN, December 30.—The steamships Adriatic and City of Montreal, from New York, and Atlas, from Boston, arrived.

European Markets.

LONDON, December 30.—Consols 92 7/8@92¼; 5-20s of '65, 103; do '67, 103¾; 10-40s, 103½; new 5s, 105¾; Erie 41¾@42; The above prices of American securities are based on the new method of reckoning the American dollar, which went into effect to-day. In this method funds are quoted at the rate of four "shillings" per dollar, not four "shilling" six, as heretofore.

PARIS, December 30.—Rentes 58 francs 37½ centimes.

LIVERPOOL, December 30.—Cotton steady at 8¼; sales 12,000 bales; American 8,200 bales; speculation and export 2,000 bales. Futures quiet. Average white California wheat 12s 10d@13s 11d; club 13s@13s 2d; red western spring 12s 8d@12s 10d; red winter 12s 4d@12s 6d. Corn 37s 3d.

HAVANA.

Barrial Relieved and Ordered to Madrid —Jovellar Insists on his Resignation— Spirit of the Press.

HAVANA, December 30.—The home government has relieved General Barrial of command of the Eastern Department because in his proclamation issued last week he attacked the existing administration of Spain. He has been ordered to appear at Madrid to answer the charges preferred against him in relation to this matter. Captain General Jovellar insists that the government shall accept his resignation before he goes to Spain, as the extraordinary powers enjoyed by his predecessors. The government has conceded increased powers, but they are restricted by certain conditions. The *Voz de Cuba* says the only reason Jovellar has not taken effective measures for the tranquilization of the island was because he could not legally do so.

The Voz and Diario declare that the Conservatives have a grand if extraordinary power, not only to suppress disorder in Cuba, but to declare martial law throughout the island, levy a forced contribution and call out the militia to suppress the rebellion.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 30, 1873.

THE RELEASED VIRGINIUS PRISONERS

passed votes of thanks to Commander Braine and other officers of the Juniata. Engineer Knight, of the Virginius, said that the original sentence at Santiago was that the entire crew should be hung at the yard-arm, but the captain of the Isabella Cristina did not wish such a spectacle made of his vessel, and obtained a change of the sentence to death by shooting and the commutation of seventeen of the crew to imprisonment for life. Two of the quartermasters and one of the oilers were accordingly sentenced to the chain gang for life, and the thirteen, all of whom are boys, to eight and four years hard labor on the gang. A life sentence of this kind was regarded as worse than death.

FORCE TO BE EMPLOYED AT BROOKLYN NAVY YARD.

CAMDEN, N. J., December 30, 1873.

The report that a large number of men are to be discharged from the navy yard on Wednesday next, is said to be unfounded. Orders have been received from Washington merely directing heads of departments at the yard to discharge workmen as circumstances may permit. There are now three thousand two hundred workmen employed at the yard, besides about five hundred in the employ of private contractors. The appropriations are only sufficient to keep sixteen hundred men at work, but a considerable number will be kept engaged all winter.

BAD STATE OF AFFAIRS IN BROOKLYN.

The Board of Supervisors of Kings County report that the Commissioners of Charities have squandered four hundred thousand dollars in the last four years by buying supplies miserable in quality and deficient in quantity, at from fifty to three hundred per cent. above the usual market rates for first-class articles. The committee recommend Governor Dix to remove the whole board. An investigation into the affairs of the Penn house of the same city, develops a most shameful state of affairs as regards the treatment of inmates, both old and young. The statement is made that the doctor in this institution goes about with sharp surgical instruments to perform difficult operations when so drunk as to be scarcely able to stand.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 31, 1 A. M.

PROBABILITIES.

For the South Atlantic and Gulf States, east of the Mississippi river, generally clear weather and low temperature and light to fresh northerly and easterly winds will prevail during the day, the winds in the lower Mississippi valley veering to the southerly with rising temperature. New England and the Middle Atlantic States, fresh to brisk southwesterly to northwesterly winds with generally clear weather on the coast and increasing cloudiness in the interior, with continued low but slightly rising temperature. For the Lake region and thence southward to the Ohio valley, the temperature will rise slightly and the winds will back to the southerly with increasing cloudiness, except, possibly, in the Ohio valley, where clear weather will prevail. For the Northwest, rising temperature, with easterly to southerly winds and cloudy weather and possibly light snow in Iowa and Missouri by Wednesday night.

Midnight Bulletin.

December 30, 1873—10:18 P. M.

PLACE OF OBSERVATION.	Ther.	Wind.	Weather.
Cairo	28	S. E.	Fair.
Cincinnati, O	26	S.	Clear.
Keokuk, Iowa	32	S.	Clear.
Keokuk, Iowa	31	S. E.	Clear.
Louisville, Ky	28	Calm.	Clear.
Memphis, Tenn	38	S. E.	Clear.
Nashville, Tenn	29	Calm.	Clear.
New Orleans, La	44	E.	Clear.
Pittsburgh, Pa	15	S.	Clear.
St. Louis, Mo	31	S.	Clear.
Vicksburg	38	S. E.	Clear.
Shreveport	37	S.	Clear.
Indianapolis	23	Calm.	Clear.
Ft. Gibson	39	E.	Fair.
Pike's Peak	8	W.	Fair.
Galveston	51	E.	Cloudy.
Jacksonville	36	E.	Clear.
St. Paul	20	E.	Clear.
Yankton	28	S. W.	Fair.

7 P. M. observation.

Gurnsey County, Ohio, Teachers' Institute.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CAMBRIDGE, O., December 30, 1873.

The Gurnsey County Teachers' Institute met here yesterday in the Town Hall and was called to order by Col. W. S. Heade, President, at two P. M., who delivered a very able inaugural address. The Institute rolls show a large attendance of over one hundred members. Prof. T. C. Mendenhall and E. H. Cook are the instructors this year.

Death of a Cleveland Lawyer.

CLEVELAND, December 30.—Charles Stetson, the lawyer who shot himself last Saturday, died this morning. He was unconscious from time of shooting until his death.

Buckwheat Flour.

25,000 pounds new hulled buckwheat goods, guaranteed to be very choice, for sale. Send your orders to David Ellis & Son, (Penn Mills,) Indiana, Pa.

Great Inducements for Cash

For floor and all kinds of Groceries at the Checkered Front.

FIRE RECORD.

Large Fire and Small Loss at Milwaukee.

MILWAUKEE, December 30.—A fire at Steven's Point, Wisconsin, Saturday night, started by the explosion of a kerosene lamp in the saloon of M. McGee, burned all the wooden buildings on Main street from the public square on the northwest corner of Main and Second streets to McCulloch's new stone block, corner of Main and Third streets, and on Second street north to the Mansion House. Loss $40,000.

CASUALTIES.

Man Stunned and Frozen to Death.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

COLUMBIA CITY, IND., December 30, 1873.

A man named Thomas Butler was found dead by the side of the track this morning. It is supposed he was knocked down by a passing train, stunned and frozen to death, as he was not bruised very much—not enough to cause death. He lived three miles west of here and was on his way home.

Three Kentucky Lawyers on Trial for Murder.

LOUISVILLE, December 30.—A special to the *Courier Journal* gives the first day's proceedings in the case of the Commonwealth against Thompson's for murder, which commenced at Harrodsburg, Mercer county, to-day. It will be remembered that some two months ago an affray occurred in the court house at Harrodsburg during the progress of a civil trial, in which P. B. Thompson, Sr., P. B. Thompson, Jr., and John Thompson, father and two sons, shot and killed Theodore Davis, Sr., Theodore Davis, Jr., and Lafkie Davis, father and two sons. All the parties engaged were of high social standing. P. B. Thompson is district attorney and John Thompson Commonwealth's attorney, while the father has been very prominent in State politics. The Davis family were highly respected farmers of Mercer county. Intense interest is felt in the case, not only in that community but throughout the whole State. High legal talent has been engaged on each side. For the Commonwealth there are four well-known criminal lawyers, and for the defense five others not less noted in the profession in this State, presenting the unusual spectacle of three lawyers on trial, and the prosecution and defense conducted by nine others. The testimony to-day was mainly as to whether the Davis family were of a quarrelsome disposition, the evidence being conflicting. It is probable that the trial will last the entire week.

The Managing Editor of the Chicago "Times" Takes a Gold Watch and Retires.

Chicago, December 30.—Alex. C. Botkin, for several years past managing editor of the *Times*, of this city, has retired from that position to accept the editorial management of the Milwaukee *Sentinel*, and will enter upon his new duties on January 6th. This evening Mr. Botkin was presented by his late associates with an elegant gold watch and chain, valued at three hundred dollars, as a testimonial of the high esteem in which they, in common with all his acquaintances, hold him. Pleasant remarks from the donors were also present added to the interest of the occasion.

Internationalists at Work in Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, December 30.—A circular printed in red, containing the words, "Bread or Blood! Celebrate the Coming Revolution! Reform or Rebellion! Thunder! Lightning! Earthquakes! War! Panic! Workingmen Pay no Taxes! Look out for the Train Ligue!" has been circulated here this afternoon extensively by the Internationalists. It announces the appearance of an International paper in this city.

STATE NEWS.

The Johnstown Mechanical Works are advertised for sale.

Chester is to have a new forty acre cemetery.

$120,000 is the security required of the county treasurer in Bucks.

Alfred Baer died in Tuscarora, Schuylkill county, on the 26th, of too much whisky.

The State branch of the Emerald Beneficial Association will meet in Reading on the 13th of January.

Mrs. Taylor, of West Chester, has had four pairs of twins, Mrs. Hannah Sponogle, of West Nantmeal, seven pairs, and Mrs. Hall goes one pair better"—she has had five pairs.

Joseph W. Brown, a tailor, was found dead in his bed at Williamsport on Sunday morning. He was seventy years old, and of intemperate habits.

About sixty new dwelling houses have been erected in the boroughs of East Conemaugh and Franklin, Cambria county, during the past year.

John Murphy was knocked down in Williamsport, in broad daylight, and robbed of $125 by three men. Two of the scoundrels are in jail.

Columbia is doing a good work which is worthy of all praise. A relief society has been formed, and its citizens are doing all that benevolence and wisdom can do for the relief of the destitute. Work has been provided for all who are willing to work, at fair wages, by the borough authorities, and the Columbia Steel and Iron Works will start up again, giving employment to several hundred men and boys.

Rev. Father Maher, of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, in Norristown, died suddenly on Sunday morning of heart disease.

Scarlet fever, it is said, rages with much virulence in the northern section of Lancaster county. Within the last few weeks quite a number of children have died, and many are now afflicted with it in the most malignant form.

Six thousand barrels of flour and fifteen thousand bushels of wheat were among the cargo of the Pennsylvania in her last trip from Philadelphia. The grain and flour trade from that port is monthly on the increase, and furnishes a constant freight to the new line of steamships.

Pottstown has two policemen, who are expected to guard a town of seven thousand inhabitants, and patrol a district a mile in length and half a mile in breadth, and be right on the spot to quell any disturbance that may occur, even if half a dozen fights or riots should take place in as many different parts of the town.

The first number of the *Farmer's Friend*, the official organ of Pennsylvania Grangers, will be issued this week, from the office of the *Independent Journal*, Mechanicsburg.

Coal miners have been out of work for some time in Hubbard, Trumbull county, the rolling mill has suspended business, and suburbs and has been thrown into the faces of several citizens. Two men had their eyes put out, and the community is now anxiously waiting to learn what punishment will be inflicted upon the perpetrators.

Following is a list of aged citizens who died in Philadelphia last week: Mary Hutchison, aged 80; Elizabeth Lutz, 80; Eliza Smith, 81; Keziah Stevenson, 81; Peter Rice, 83; Thomas Bowne, 83; Mary Hallowell, 84; Patrick Cox, 84; Christiana Palmer, 85; Elizabeth Peddle, 85; Martha Brewin, 86; John Bothwell, 86; Michael Dirker, 88; Elizabeth Burns, 89; Ambrose White, 94; Elizabeth Herbert, 94; and Mary Ennis, 98.

The deaths reported in Philadelphia during the year ending on December 27th, numbered 16,776, or 3,786 less than in 1872.

Grace Methodist Episcopal chapel, in Harrisburg, was dedicated on Sunday last.

Samuel White, aged seventy years, fell dead in Lancaster on Monday, while shoveling snow in his door-yard. Apoplexy was the cause.

Jesse Landis, Esq., a prominent member of the Lancaster bar, died on Monday.

The Mexican veterans of Blair county met at Hollidaysburg on Saturday and formed a Scott Legion.

An order has been issued at Harrisburg, reducing the wages of employees of the Northern Central Railway Company ten per cent., to go into effect January 1st, 1874.

A keg of powder exploded while John Morgan, of Schuylkill county, was carrying it under his arm, a spark having fallen into it. The man was seriously injured.

The caving in of a slope near Shamokin killed William Jones on Saturday and and severely hurt two others.

A northern tier exchange tells of a merchant who, in a fit of somnambulism, got out of bed, took the scissors and cut the bedquilt in two, and then asked his frightened wife if she wouldn't let him show her something else.

New Patent.

The Great White River Flour is now being made under a new patent and is said to be giving general satisfaction. It is now the leading brand in this market.

PITTSBURGH, CINCINNATI & ST. LOUIS R. R. CO.
PITTSBURGH, December 29, 1873.

Notice.

WHEREAS, It is believed that the present strike is the result of a conspiracy to prevent the public from using the lines owned and operated by this company and, whereas, it is desirable that all persons engaged in such conspiracy should be promptly punished. It is therefore ordered by this company that a reward of one thousand dollars will be paid for the arrest and conviction of each person engaged in any conspiracy against the interests of this company in connection with the present difficulties that exist upon these roads.

J. W. MCCULLOUGH,
General Manager.

PITTSBURGH, CINCINNATI & ST. LOUIS RAILWAY CO.
PITTSBURGH, December 29, 1873.

Notice.

A reward of one thousand dollars is offered for information that will secure the arrest and conviction of the parties who have recently unstrung the tracks, thrown stones or other missiles at the engines and cars, misplaced switches, and damaged the property or disturbed the employees of the line.

J. N. MCCULLOUGH, General Manager.

TEAS & COFFEES
FLOUR AND CHEESE
T. C. JENKINS
Liberty St. Pittsburgh Pa.

THE GREAT
White River Flour
MANUFACTURED UNDER
MY NEW PATENT.
I will Guarantee this Flour
To make More and Better Bread than can be made from any other Flour in the country for the money. Money Refunded if Flour is not as represented.
25 Cents per Barrel on Flour
FOR PROMPT CASH.
Remit by Exchange on Pittsburgh or by Express. At Grocer's Low No Charge for Drayag

☞ *Advertisements on this page, under the several heads of* WANTED, FOR SALE, FOR RENT, *&c., will be inserted at transient rates only*—THREE *cents per line for each insertion. No subscription less than* FIFTY CENTS.

WANTED.

WANTED—CHAIN MAKERS—TEN first-class Chain Makers, at Niles, Trumbull county, O.—Niles Chain Co.

WANTED—WAREHOUSE—A WAREHOUSE between Market and Smithfield street, on First avenue.—Address Look Box 211.

WANTED—ANY OF OUR DEPOSITORS who have not already received their money as per notice, will please call for it, either also we will reinvest it for sixty or ninety days. T. MCLUNG & SONS.

WANTED—30 COAL MINERS; MARRIED men preferred. Contractors can be supplied with good workmen. Colored miners wanted. Cooks and general housework girls want work. Also seamstresses. Apply at Employment office, No. 1 Sixth street, Pittsburgh.

WANTED — PURCHASERS — FOR Cannel Coal and timber lands, in Grant county, Kentucky. Also, for Pittsburgh coal lands, in the Pittsburgh coal region. Those lands are well situated for shipping, accessible by railroads, and will be s

The Daily Commercial.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1873.

The receipts of crude petroleum at this port during the year just closing, reach a small fraction over two millions of barrels. This is the largest aggregate yet attained.

Is it be true that, as the old poet sings, "courage mounteth with occasion," what a wonderful gathering of moral heroes there will be upon the reassembling of Congress!

We print elsewhere in this morning's COMMERCIAL a card from the Hon. GEORGE V. LAWRENCE, in which he says he is not an aspirant for the position of Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania.

The Philadelphia *Press* says that President GRANT does not approve of the course of some of his friends in Pennsylvania in opposing the new Constitution. What has President GRANT got to do with it, anyhow?

We have received a pamphlet containing the views of Mr. WILLIAM ORTON, President of the Western Union Telegraph Company, in opposition to the postal telegraph scheme of Postmaster General CRESWELL.

The course of the opposition press toward the administration would look a good deal less stupid to the impartial outside observer, if those papers could only be brought to an agreement among themselves. If they *must* distort, misrepresent and malign, at least let them pay some slight regard to the unities of falsehood.

Who is it that is said to cry "stop thief" the loudest? A curious fact in connection with BEN BUTLER'S flippant talk about correspondents who live on the "bounty" of Congress is, that at the present time there are only two correspondents who hold Congressional clerkships, and that *both* are friends of the Massachusetts scorpion.

CAN no method be devised of making the New York *Herald* cease its intolerable bombast concerning its "intellectual department?" There was once a man who saved his life with arsenic—by not taking any; and the brain department of the *Herald* would seem, in their particular field, to have followed his example to the very letter. So, also, in the matter of conscience.

The Wilmington and Reading Railroad Company has decided to pass the semi-annual interest on its second mortgage bonds, which matures to-morrow. The directors have authorized a mortgage on the Reading branch for half a million dollars, the bonds secured by which will be applied to the funding of the defaulting interest, so far as the holders choose to avail themselves of it.

The Democrats of West Virginia are getting into a beautiful snarl among themselves, the friends and the opponents of Governor JACOBS being the parties to this factional fight. Our advice to the Republicans of that State is to stand off and let the factions fight it out. By interfering they will only drive the two together; whereas, by holding aloof, these Kilkenny cats mutually destroy each other.

The press throughout the country is united in condemning the substitute adopted in the House for the salary repeal bill. It is justly stigmatized as a subterfuge, and it will not satisfy the public mind. Let the Senate pass Senator WRIGHT'S amendment to it, which simply repeals the increase of salary and restores things as they were previous to the increase, and then let the House defeat it, if it dare.

Now we know why Congress wants to compromise on the salary-grab question. It is because EDMUND BURKE once declared that "all government, indeed, every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue and every prudent act, is founded on compromise and barter." That body, however, seems entirely to ignore the essential fact that in its case the moral elements and conditions are wholly wanting.

The effects of the panic in Massachusetts do not appear to have been so serious as has been claimed; the annual report of the Savings Banks Commissioner showing that the amount of deposits in those institutions has increased to $203 062,156 52 from last year's deposits of $184,797,313 92, or nearly nine per cent. The increase in the number of depositors is 37,000, or about six per cent. This is every way creditable and encouraging.

We do not in the slightest degree regret our opposition to the new State Constitution; a fact which our contemporaries may just as well understand once for all. Their constant taunting reminders of the majority by which that Instrument was adopted are, therefore, wholly wasted upon us. "How much do you weigh," asked a big boy of a small one, upon a certain occasion; and the ready answer was, "Quite as much as you would if you were washed."

It is a somewhat noticeable fact that the violence of the speakers at the workingmen's meetings which are being held in our large cities, is generally in inverse ratio to the stage of advancement in the knowledge of our language and institutions. The most pestiferous brawlers among them all are foreigners of comparatively recent importation; and very remarkable combinations of the earnestness of the ass with the sagacity of the hog, do they furnish.

Should Congress, after reassembling, find it absolutely indispensable to the smooth transaction of the public business to let off a certain quantity of steam every day, we respectfully suggest as a proper theme for discussion, the supremacy of conscience in the individual. Some members are profoundly ignorant of the subject, to be sure, but hardly more so than with respect to a great many other matters on which they discourse with the utmost glibness and volubility.

Mr. JAMES W. M. NEWLIN, of Philadelphia, occupies four columns of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* in proving that the Supreme Court was wrong in its decision on the limited powers of the Constitutional Convention. His savage onslaught upon them must make the Judges of that court feel very bad; but they have this decided advantage over NEWLIN, that while what they say is very properly considered as good law throughout the State, what *he* says is just as properly considered as bosh, and the worst kind of bosh, at that.

In Philadelphia where, a few weeks ago, the business aspect was gloomy and disheartening, affairs have taken on a much brighter and more encouraging look. The large manufactories of cotton, woolen and iron have, as a general thing, resumed work; the shrinkage of values has been almost entirely made up, and producers are receiving fair prices for their goods. The demand for manufactures has, however, fallen off to a considerable degree, and those now being turned out are for the spring trade, which is expected to be the best the city has known for years.

Great Britain appears to be growing really alarmed at the remarkable progress which Roman Catholicism is making in that country. Earl RUSSELL has written a letter in which he states that the time has come, foreseen by Sir ROBERT PEEL, when the Roman Catholic church disclaims equality and will be satisfied with nothing but ascendency. No plan of checkmating this steadily increasing influence is suggested, however. Suppose the Anglican clergy were to try the effects of a little more Apostolic earnestness, unworldliness, sincerity, and simplicity upon their endangered flocks.

With regard to the protest of the Union Pacific Railroad Company against being compelled to set aside five per cent. of the net earnings as a sinking fund for the payment of the principal of their subsidy bonds, on the ground that the road is not completed within the meaning of the law, it might be well to inquire whether, if their remonstrance be soundly based, their land grant has not wholly lapsed by the failure to fulfill its conditions within the time allowed. The company are trying to play a sharp game, alike with the government and the settlers on their lands—and their noses ought to be brought to the grindstone.

The New York Board of Education proposes to establish a free school of chemical science in that city. This is better than most of the experiments ventured upon in that metropolis. We are a country of inventors, the ingenuity of our people is almost universally proverbial, and with this inherent talent it is proper to do all that can be rightly done toward the distribution of scientific knowledge among those whose means are limited. The expense of attending technical schools is considerable, and comparatively few can enjoy the benefits of scientific instruction unless they are able to pay some hundreds of dollars a year. We shall await with interest the practical workings of the experiment.

All sorts of propositions, some of them of a very Utopian character, are being made relative to the melioration of the condition of the unemployed laborers in New York city. Among other impracticable plans, a petition has been gotten up asking the Legislature to pass a bill to suspend the collection of rents from the first of February to the first of May, and another to have an act passed to effect a reduction of house rents by twenty-five per cent. Another suggestion is to have the corporation issue currency in small denominations; and yet another, that the city council shall forthwith provide ways and means of enabling every man ready and willing to work to find food and fuel for himself and family.

MR. CUSHING AND HIS MISSION.

Mr. CALEB CUSHING is not believed to be going to Spain as an ordinary Minister or representative of his government. He probably does not merely succeed Mr. SICKLES. Though no extraordinary title may be conferred upon him, he has, no doubt, been selected as the best man to perform some special service rendered necessary by the condition of Spain and by the peculiar relations which just now exist between Spain and the United States. It is, therefore, not supposed that Mr. CUSHING will remain very long in Madrid, but, having succeeded or failed in effecting the object of his appointment, will make way for a successor deemed equal to the ordinary duties of the Spanish Embassy. We have no positive authority for such a view of the character of his mission, but found it on probable considerations. In the first place, Mr. CUSHING is "well stricken in age," while his habits of life and his engagements are such as to render it unlikely that he should accept a diplomatic position for any other than very peculiar and urgent reasons. In the second place, his reputation and certain obvious qualifications would seem to point him out as the right person, at least in many respects, to represent his government in the discussion and adjustment of complicated and embarrassing international questions. Some of the most important faculties of a first-rate lawyer are in him highly developed; his stores of legal, historical and political knowledge have been often described as immense by competent judges; having spent many years abroad in early life, and having never ceased to cultivate acquaintance both with the people and with the literatures of continental Europe, Mr. CUSHING, though strongly American in feeling, is thoroughly liberalized and able to look at the foreign side of controversies from the foreign as well as from the domestic point of view; and last, not least, he is, of course, wholly free from the mischievous political sentimentalism, which identifies well ordered liberty and national well being with the mere growth of republicanism irrespective of other considerations. Spain being the scene of his prospective labors, it is pertinent to remember that, with Spain and its people, Mr. CUSHING made himself personally familiar forty or more years ago. Though said to be passionate and certainly capable of occasional indiscretion, as his last book showed, he has, in the performance of many public duties, given evidence of possessing both judgment and tact.

But the most satisfactory reason in favor of the view that Mr. CALEB CUSHING is going to Madrid as a sort of special commissioner is found in the actual relations between Spain and the United States. The affair of the Virginius is at once settled and unsettled. As the case now stands, it involves complications which would be embarrassing under any circumstances, and which are greatly increased by the unsettled condition of the Spanish government. The subject may or might easily become a very exciting question in this country. Not only Democrats but some Republicans are already charging the administration with having grossly mismanaged a business which, only a few days ago, was believed by nearly all parties to have been managed with admirable tact and credit. It is, however, too soon yet to begin to find fault. In demanding the surrender of the ship, Mr. FISH was merely maintaining an American view of the right of search, often asserted and even fought for; a view which, whether accepted or not by other nations, the American people are, most likely, ready to uphold. The American government alone has the right to decide whether or not a vessel is entitled to the protection of its flag. American officials having already more than once recognized the Virginius as an American ship, it is not strange that, in presence of the outrage committed upon it, Mr. FISH did not pause to examine Spanish evidence of its lawless character; evidence which appears to have been repeatedly before submitted to the State Department as grounds for arresting the career of the ship in Cuban waters. Assuming Attorney General WILLIAMS'S decision to be sound, it would seem that the examination of the evidence offered by the Spanish Minister, six months or nine months ago, should have led to action on the part of the American government which would have prevented all subsequent trouble about the Virginius. But there is at least probable reason to regard the Attorney General's judgment as erroneous, as having been made in ignorance or oversight of legal decisions and of maritime usages, with which Mr. CUSHING is known to be, but was not, familiar. In either case, the position of the American government in relation to Spain undoubtedly appears somewhat awkward and undignified; or rather it would appear so, in the absence of those conditions in the Spanish administration of Cuba, which properly apprehended and considered serve at once to account for and, partly at least, to excuse the attitude of the United States. Spain, however, can not be expected very cheerfully to admit the indefensible character of the insubordination as justification of American conduct, and may therefore be expected to push her advantage. Spain, no doubt, thinks she has a right, the Attorney General's decision being correct, to demand the re-delivery of the ship, and on the other hand, whether the Attorney General's decision be correct or incorrect, she thinks she has a valid claim for damages against the United States for aiding and abetting the rebellion in Cuba by protecting the Virginius in its operations. Careful and skilful diplomacy will certainly be necessary to adjust peaceably the questions thus raised. Their difficulties are, of course, much increased by the state of feelings in Cuba. In the laudable desire to carry the Virginius affair to a peaceful issue, American grievances in the island have lately been perhaps too much overlooked, but they are not less real on that account. The American government cannot with credit allow such massacres as have taken place at Santiago and elsewhere to be repeated. American life and property in Cuba call for protection, and the feeling is very general that the rule of the Cuban volunteers cannot be permitted to continue much longer. In their atrocities and kindred abuses may oe found some justification of the American neutrality of which the Spaniards complain.

If, by devoting his great abilities and knowledge to these troublesome questions, Mr. CUSHING can remove the Cuban nuisance and thus maintain peace between his country and Spain, the achievement will form a fine and noble conclusion to a long series of valuable public services.

ADMITTED IMPERFECTIONS.

Mr. BUCKALEW, at the meeting of the Constitutional Convention on the 27th inst., spoke of several "*apparent* imperfections" in the new Constitution, and Mr. HARRY WHITE spoke of them as "*admitted* imperfections," which he regretted the Convention had now no power to correct. "*Admitted* imperfections" is good, but it would have been much better if Messrs. WHITE and BUCKALEW, and their coadjutors, had had sufficient clearness of perception to see these now "admitted imperfections" before the Constitution was adopted, instead of after it. People who were not members of the Convention discovered them and pointed them out; and now the Convention itself recognizes them by admitting that they *are* imperfections. The Convention took a year to do its work, and did it botchingly; and then was mean enough to refuse the people sufficient time to go over it carefully and patiently.

Among these admitted imperfections in the Constitution is the failure in it to say when the first biennial session of the Legislature shall assemble under it. Mr. BUCKALEW sought to cure this by submitting a resolution on the subject, which was adopted. We quote from the report of the proceedings of the Convention at Harrisburg on the 27th:

"Mr. Buckalew submitted a resolution declaring, in the sense of the Convention, that the session of the General Assembly, to be held in the year 1875, will properly be held to be the first regular biennial session under the new Constitution. He remarked that his object was to remedy an apparent imperfection in the Constitution, his idea being that a unanimous declaration by the Convention that a certain course of action was in accordance with the spirit of its work, would substantially settle a matter about which there might be difficulty."

Another difficulty is about the pardoning power. We quote further:

"In a criticism upon several additional imperfections he [Mr. Buckalew] spoke of the wording of the Associate Judge provision as having the effect to turn these judges out of the Criminal and Orphans' Courts, and confine them to service in the Common Pleas, where their utility was most questioned. Again, the new Constitution prohibited the Governor from granting a pardon unless it be recommended by three State officials. Two of these would not be inducted into office for one whole year, and unless a *strong* construction was given to the new Constitution by the Governor and his advisers, it would follow that no pardon would be granted for one year. He supposed that from the necessities of the case those officials would be justified in holding that the new Constitution, so far as the granting of pardons by the Governor was concerned, did not go into effect until 1875. In that way the difficulty would be obviated, though he thought the Convention itself ought to make this declaration."

The Governor, however, is not given to making "strong" or forced interpretations of the Constitution, and it is much more probable that he will refuse, altogether, to exercise the pardoning power than that he will attempt to use it under a forced and extremely doubtful construction of an instrument just adopted by the people.

Besides all this, Mr. BUCKALEW is sufficient of a lawyer to know that the new Constitution, just like all other instruments of its class, will be interpreted by the courts according to what it says, and not according to any resolutions upon it by the Convention which framed it. The intentions of its framers are to be inferred only from the language they used, and no testimony extraneous thereto will be admitted in any legal controversy over it. The resolutions of the members of the Convention, therefore, giving *their* interpretation of it, are mere surplusage, and will not be heeded or recognized by the courts; and even if they could be so recognized, a Convention that admits the palpable imperfection of its work would hardly be accepted as an authority in construing or interpreting it.

For one, we put in a caveat, here and now, against what Mr. BUCKALEW calls "a strong construction" of the new Constitution. By "strong" we presume he means not merely a liberal, but a constrained interpretation, wherever and whenever the circumstances may seem to justify it. Nothing could be more fatal, in our judgment, than the adoption of such a course. It is a well settled principle of constitutional law that Constitutions are to be construed strictly, and the only safety of the people is in adhering to that principle firmly. Loose and latitudinarian constructions are dangerous to liberty, and no matter what inconveniences may arise until the imperfections can be removed, it is better to endure them than to establish a loose system of construing the fundamental law.

CABINET OFFICERS IN CONGRESS.

Caleb Cushing, before he was appointed Minister to Spain, unearthed an old statute which empowers the House to require answers to its questions on financial subjects from the Secretary of the Treasury, "either in person or in writing." If the House chooses, therefore, it can at any time cite Secretary RICHARDSON before it and catechise him to its heart's content.

We have seen, as yet, no evidence of a purpose on the part of the House to exercise its prerogative in this respect; but if it has any such purpose it will act wisely in going one step further and adopting the plan proposed some years since by Mr. PENDLETON, of Ohio, which made the Cabinet ministers *ex officio* members of the two Houses of Congress, and required them to be constantly present in one or the other, to answer any interrogatories that might be addressed to them concerning their respective departments.

This would be a legitimate following out of the practice which the old statute, raised from the dead by CUSHING, was intended to establish. It would bring Congress and the Cabinet face to face; and while experience might render it necessary to require that members should give notice a day in advance of inquiries to the Cabinet ministers, before pressing those inquiries, so as to enable each to answer understandingly and from the record, it would demonstrate the superiority of colloquial answers to written ones. It might, of course, keep out of the Treasury and the State Departments men who cannot stand up and speak out plainly for themselves; but we are not sure, upon close inquiry, that that would not be a gain instead of a loss. Cabinet officers would, of course, have to be chosen for their skill and experience in debate and in answering questions; and the probability is that the country would be all the better served, in consequence.

The Mennonite colony, which recently emigrated to the United States in order to escape the burdensome military laws of Russia, have lately purchased sixteen thousand acres of choice lands in southern Nebraska. They are reported to exhibit every evidence of thrift, and are becoming measurably acclimated and accustomed to the usages of the country. To each family is deeded a section of six hundred and forty acres. Many comfortable houses, together with barns and outbuildings, have been erected. The colonists have leased the most of the land which was broken during the year in the vicinity, paying therefore a cash rental. Teams, grain for seed, farming implements, and everything necessary for successful cultivation are being purchased ready for spring operations. They are said to be passionately fond of music, and delight in choral singing, and their home circles are described as models of propriety and affection. They complain somewhat that their wrongs and interests have been misrepresented by the press. The term Quaker or Mennonite, it seems, is not properly applied to them, for they claim to be, in every essential particular, Presbyterian, their worship and church government being the same. Neither, they state, is it true that they are non-resistants, or at least at all times opposed to war. It was the long term of military service required of them in the old countries which was distasteful, consuming as it did, the best years of a man's life. If there should be a war in which our governments needed soldiers, it would find none readier to respond to a call for troops than this colony. It is only unjust and long continued service that they object to. They express themselves as pleased with what they have seen here, and render a willing obedience to our country's customs and laws. They are expending every dollar of the half million of dollars which they brought with them, in the purchase of lands and in improvements. They will form a valuable accession to the population of that young and thrifty State, for the moral intrepidity of generations is in their blood.

A very important discovery of ancient classics, consisting of manuscripts from the collections of MITHRADATES, PTOLEMY, MATTHIAS CORVINUS, ALMAMUM, PALEOLOGUS, and other great historic names of the remote past, has recently been made near Ushiva, by an eminent Russian savan. There is said to be positive evidence of the fact that they are the remnants of the great library which TIMUR gathered at Samarkand, and which was added to by the Seljuk sultans of Bokhara. Many of the books are from the library of ALMAMUM, at Bagdat, and before that were on the shelves of the great library of Alexandria. One roll of manuscript contains a medical work attributed to PYTHAGORAS, and claims to have originally belonged to the library of MITHRADATES, King of Pontus. The collection is reported to be particularly rich in ancient physics and philosophy. The other branches of literature, however, are not barren, and there are some real treasures, which, if not too defective to be restored, will delight the world. Among these are said to be several which once belonged to the Aristotalian collection of APELLICON, which SYLLA the Dictator sent to Rome from Athens; some precious fragments of ARISTOTLE, SOPHOCLES, EPICURUS, and other Greek authors, besides three books which belonged to the famous Kalif AABOUN ARASCHEED; together with a splendid collection of Greek and Roman autographs made in the ninth century at Constantinople, and embracing, among other things, letters in the handwriting of most of the eminent personages of that day. The rare collection, which has been obtained for the Imperial Russian Geographical Society, will doubtless set the scholars and antiquaries of all christendom on the *qui vive*.

The country will, of course, continue for some time to feel the effects of the profound shock given during the last three months to its monetary organism; but notwithstanding this, the actual financial, commercial and industrial situation is not only not unfavorable, but full of hope and promise for the future. The solid material interests of the country have been but little if at all injured by the panic, and there are good grounds for anticipating that the business of next year will be of so active and prosperous a character as almost wholly to compensate for the reverses of the year now fading into the past. The payment of the January dividends always releases a large amount of capital, which soon finds its way into active employment. The total dividends payable in New York city during the next three weeks, including interest on the public debt, is estimated at a hundred millions of dollars, which is exclusive of the large amount that will be disbursed in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, and other financial centers; the whole forming an aggregate the circulation of which can hardly fail to infuse new life and confidence into business. Another favorable sign of the times is that the Eastern banks, while reducing their call loans, are loaning money on good commercial paper. With large deposits and the steady confidence now existing, we may hope for a favorable money market for a long time to come. The year is closing with a decided upward tendency, and everything, upon the whole, looks encouraging.

The New York papers publish full lists of the corporations already announced as being ready to pay interest or dividends in that city on January 1, 1874, and there are fewer defaults than were anticipated. The *Times* says:

"The falling off in the New Year, from the last July dividends, will prove less serious than apprehended a few weeks ago. As all the railroad dividends have not yet been advertised, it is too early to know the number of defaults or extensions on mortgage interest, but we believe that nearly all the roads that paid in July will make provision for their January interest.

"Among the July dividends that do not appear in our present list, are the Lake Shore stock, Central National Bank stock, and Union Trust."

And now the picturesque people of New Mexico are bestirring themselves and beginning to respond to the quickening influences of the time. Two years ago that Territory was completely destitute of common schools, but during the past year free schools have been established and maintained in almost every voting precinct of the Territory, while the people almost universally manifest a lively interest in the subject and a determination to make the system thorough and permanent. This is the true way in which to plant the seeds of an enduring civilization and give them strong root. New Mexico is wise.

The papers of Chicago are somewhat offensively addicted to boasting of their extraordinary enterprise, as compared with journals in other interior cities of the country. As an illustration of this sleepless vigilance and tireless energy we may remark that last Monday's issue of one of the principal papers of that city contained the interesting intelligence that the Medical Society of New York had resolved to admit regularly educated female physicians as members—the same information having been furnished the readers of the COMMERCIAL upwards of a week ago.

Judging from the tone of our exchanges, the farmers of the country seem to be unanimously of opinion that we have never had a better seed time than the present. The last six weeks have been dry, and until this week, there has been an almost entire absence of frost. Consequently there are no impediments to a vigorous prosecution of autumn work, and as labor is abundant, a large breadth of land has been sown with winter wheat. The young plants look well, and the agricultural prospect for next year is looked upon, therefore, as more than usually hopeful.

Hon. George V. Lawrence and the Lieutenant Governorship.

MONONGAHELA CITY, December 30, 1873.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

I observe, in your issue of this morning, a communication (written doubtless by some friend), naming me for Lieutenant Governor under the new Constitution. As I have had some part in the formation of the instrument by which this office is created, and sustained it before the people (not as perfect in all its provisions, for some of these I did not approve), but better suited to the advanced condition of the State than that of 1838, I would be placed in a most delicate and undesirable position by this early and, as I think, premature announcement, did I not *at once* say I do not ask nor seek any office, and much less one created in part by my own act and rate.

Yours truly,
GEORGE V. LAWRENCE.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Coffee and tea to-morrow, in place of wines and liquors.

This is a good time in which to remember that the only effective answer to undeserved censure is a record that cannot be justly criticised.

The blessedness of others makes our own.

The year has only one day more. Don't let it pass away without recording, by your gifts, well-selected and appropriate presents to those whom you love and cherish.

Query? If it be right and proper for men to become intoxicated on New Year's day, is it not right and proper for them to get drunk every day in the year?

General Butler is to receive an over-Hawling when Congress re-convenes next Monday.

A girl baby with two hearts has just been born in Minnesota. A good many seem to be born without any.

Chicago proposes to build a hundred million dollar air-line railroad to New York, just so soon as she can borrow a quarter of a million to pay the interest on her bonded debt.

An interesting chapter in history would be the biographies of "The Men who Cerufy" to the character of other men, and then are never heard of more.

The life of Agassiz, written by his wife, will soon be ready for publication.

In vino veritas. On Christmas day a crowd of ex-Confederates attempted to take possession of a ferry-boat on the Potomac, because the captain refused to receive Confederate shinplasters for their fare.

After to-morrow the Chicago *Post* and *Mail* will appear as one paper, with a union of both names as the new heading.

As the first day of the new year approaches, men are accustomed to form new resolutions for good. Let us hope our city authorities will register a solemn vow that before a twelvemonth shall elapse our streets shall be no longer a shame and a disgrace.

The Third Assistant Postmaster General decides that any number of individuals or firms may print their advertisements on a postal card before it is deposited in the mails.

Two hundred and fifty papers have died this year.

Minneapolis wants a Kindergarten school immediately. Pittsburgh don't seem to want one, but ough! to have one, nevertheless.

The Internal Revenue Commissioner gives it as his opinion that the worst effects of the panic on the revenues of the country have been felt, and that there will be henceforth a steady recovery.

A suit is now pending before the Supreme Court in which the Choctaw Nation seeks to recover from the United States $500,000, due under an act passed in 1861 in accordance with a treaty made in 1855.

An economical improvement has just been introduced on an Eastern railroad, by which a great saving of coal is made. It consists of a coil of pipe placed inside the smoke-stack of the locomotive, and connected with the pump which supplies the boiler. The cold water from the tender passes through this pipe, and is heated by the exhaust steam and the spent heat from the flues.

Boston, too, is getting her trade balance on the right side. The total value of all goods shipped from that port during the past week was $842,525, of which $56,977 represented exports. The shipments since the 1st of July were $31,588,235, against $22,461,307 in corresponding time last year, an increase of $9,126,928.

Two American insurance companies have obtained permission from the government at Vienna to establish branch agencies for fire insurance in Austria.

And now the crime epidemic has broken out among the railroads. A $70,000 defalcation is reported in the accounts of the cashier of the freight department of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad.

PERSONAL.

President Grant assisted at the silver wedding celebration of Rev. Dr. Tiffany and wife a few evenings ago. Dr. Tiffany is pastor of the church at which the President and family worship.

There is a flutter among the belles of Washington to-day, by reason of the fact that it is the appointed day for solemnizing the long anticipated marriage of Mr. William Oswald Charlton, of the British Legation, to Miss Mary Campbell, daughter of a retired naval officer of that city. The wedding will be followed by a reception, to which the President and his Cabinet, Sir Edward Thornton and other distinguished people have been invited.

King Bill of the Sandwich Islands, it is stated by the Honolulu papers, cannot live but a short time. As he has no direct heirs, a strife has already commenced in regard to succession to the throne. Conspicuous among the aspirants are David Kalakaua, a native, and Mrs. C. R. Bishop, a Yankee woman, who, it is stated, is working so vigorously that she already has nearly all the natives in her favor, and is likely to give the Sandwich Islander a hard chase.

A young Bostonian, a merchant in Japan, has married an English lady who makes British plum puddings; but her patriotic husband still hungers for the American article as manufactured under the roof of his childhood. As news on Braid, Gathers and Tucks, Hems and Embroideries REMEMBER, the movement of only two parts (one of which entirely does away with all the complications so liable to get out of order, and so often the cause of annoyance to the operator, besides the ruinous expenditure of force in propelling them. Our Sandfeeding Head requires the assistance of only one hand or even one finger, thus leaving the right hand entirely at liberty to pilot the wheel, which runs easy and even as a well balanced wheel. with

No Toilsome Tread of the Treadle.

Orders promptly filled on receipt of $20. Beckwith Sewing Machine Co., 5492 Broadway, New York. MWF

Bahmer Bros. & Co.

PRODUCE

Commission Merchants

FOR THE SALE OF

Butter, Eggs, Cheese, Flour, Grain, Wool

AND ALL KINDS OF

COUNTRY PRODUCE,

207 Liberty St., Pittsburgh.

☞ Consignments Solicited.

Returns promptly made. A liberal advance made on Consignments. W

NOTICE—LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the estate of CALEB RUSSELL, late of the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., deceased, have been granted to the subscribers. All persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims or demands against the estate of said decedent, will make known the same without delay to WM. E. NESBITT and JAS. A. MCFADDEN, Administrators, Moon Post-office, Allegheny county, Pa.; or to THOMAS MCFADDEN, JR., No. 41 Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. W

WEST VIRGINIA NEWS.

The Charleston correspondent of the Wheeling *Intelligencer* is of opinion that, were one half of the deeds of the Legislature just closed known to the people of the State, there would be no more Democratic Assemblies for years to come. He sums up its iniquities thus: "The Constitution has been overridden; the interests of the State have been sacrificed for party; the highest officer of the State (the Governor) has been insulted by them; the money of the people has been squandered; the dignity of Legislative Assemblies has been trailed in the dust, and the State itself has been dishonored and disgraced by the Bourbon-Ring-Democratic Legislature of 1872-3."

The editor of the Wellsburg *News* was serenaded the other night "through the instrumentality" of some young ladies who treated him with "waltzes, cotillions, and now and then some of those beautiful Germania airs that repeat themselves in the memory, just as the ocean shell tells over again in its murmurings the story of the sea." That fellow "has it bad."

Clarksburg is trying to organize a Ladies' Benevolent Society.

The Clarksburg *National Telegraph* expects to enlarge soon.

The only West Virginia name in the long list of Jay Cooke & Co.'s creditors, is that of the Bank of Union, Monroe county, which is down for $1,857.

The Disciples congregation at Fairview, Hancock county, propose to build a new church, and have already raised $2,100 for that purpose.

General Strother (Porte Crayon), J. Rufus Smith, Dr. Ewing and other distinguished citizens of Berkley Springs, held a public debate, recently, on the following question: "*Resolved*, That good roads and thoroughfares are of more advantage in advancing and developing civilization than good schools." The *Mercury* says the decision was in favor of the roads.

The Knights of Pythias of Cameron held a fair, commencing on Christmas and ending on Saturday night, from which they made $700 clear profit.

The next term of the Supreme Court of West Virginia commences at Charleston on the 9th day of January.

The postoffice at Troy's store, Randolph county, is discontinued for want of a postmaster. The papers go to Long's Mills. J. F. Johnson is appointed postmaster at Peerville, McDowell county, *vice* J. F. Gamble, resigned.

A session of the Morgantown District Methodist Episcopal Conference will be held in that town, on Thursday, January 15th. An address to local preachers will be delivered by Hon. W. T. Willey; and the question, "How can our Quarterly Meetings be made a greater power of good to the church?" will be discussed. Rev. J. W. Webb is Presiding Elder of the district.

The new Governor elect, Kemper, will be inaugurated on the first proximo. He has declined the present of a carriage and horses, and will dispense with all fuss and feathers in his administration. He proposes to quietly take the oath of office before a magistrate and enter on his duties.

During the past fiscal year, West Virginia contributed $454,102 18 to the general government, in the shape of internal revenue.

Another Foolish Strike.

[From the New York Times.]

In many respects the strike of the locomotive engineers on the Western railroads is one of the most unfortunate incidents of the present agitation of the labor question. If, as the engineers assert, the company had entered into contracts which prevented any change in wages, the order for a reduction of ten per cent. nevertheless offered no excuse for the measures adopted by the engineers. If the order was one the company had the right to make, the conduct of the employees was still more inexcusable. They had remedies in either case which they should have used before resorting to the extreme measure of a strike. A conference with the company might have resulted in a settlement of the dispute satisfactory to all parties. If it had not, and the facts are as stated by the engineers, a resort the law courts would have served their purpose without incommoding the public, for a railroad company is not yet at liberty to violate its contracts. It may be that the action of the company was impolitic, and it may even have been illegal in a certain sense. But in either case the engineers have succeeded in placing themselves in a position in which they cannot expect to have public sympathy. At a time when the business of the country is suffering from great depression they have no proper to strike against a small reduction of wages in a manner that has inflicted general inconvenience upon the public, and produced great distress to many laborers who have no part or concern in their quarrel.

A more critical examination of the facts makes even less creditable the position of the engineers. There is reason to believe that very many of those engaged in the strike, if not a majority, believe it to be unjustifiable, and no less injurious to themselves than to the community. They cannot complain of severe criticism if they join in an enterprise which their judgment condemns. When intelligent men surrender the liberty of individual action to labor organizations, they become machines, dangerous to the public welfare. And this is what the engineers have done. Many of them declare they consider the strike impolitic, but they must quit work because ordered to do so by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. If they should happen to have the control of this organization, issue an edict, and thousands of men are compelled to quit work, disorganize a great business, and leave their families to starve? It is evident, then, that the strike does not proceed from a general sense of hardship among the engineers, but from a decree of the demagogues who have induced the craftsmen to make a combination for their benefit. It is not possible for the majority of the engineers to derive any profit from the strike. They are inflicting suffering upon themselves and their families merely that they may serve the purposes of the leaders of the Brotherhood, who live by this sort of agitation. The engineers are fully aware of this fact, yet they yield an implicit obedience to the orders of the Brotherhood. It is this blind, unreasoning obedience to the edicts of an irresponsible leadership that constitutes the grave public danger to be seen in this strike. The same fact is apparent in all labor organizations. The engineers have done nothing that other trades unions may not do at any time.

A number of Southern speculators have just purchased a large tract of land in Florida, lying between the Miami river and the Everglades. It makes one's mouth water to read the fatness of this tropical region. It is the land of the banana, the cocoanut, the bread fruit, the pineapple, the orange, the lemon and all tropical productions. The circumambient waters teem with the most delicious fish oysters, clams, crabs, shrimp, turtle, terrapin, and all the luscious spoil of the sea. Deer, wild turkey, ducks, and birds without number inhabit the forests around about. It is, in fact, a Paradise for the tourist, the sportsman, and the lover of nature. This tract the purchasers intend to plant in tropical fruits.

Why don't they?

A man has been sentenced to forty lashes and five years' penal servitude in England for throwing snuff in the eyes of a jeweler and then stealing three diamond rings. If everybody here was punished in like manner who threw dust in people's eyes before robbing them, the State of Delaware would be compelled to greatly enlarge its borders.

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,

NO. 61 FOURTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH.

ASSETS JANUARY 1, 1873....$778,251 56.

Chartered in 1862.

Open daily from 9 to 4 o'clock, and on SATURDAY EVENINGS, from May 1st to November 1st, 7 to 9 o'clock, and from November 1st to May 1st, 6 to 8 o'clock. Interest paid at the rate of Six Per Cent., computed from 1st and 15th of each month, and if not withdrawn compounds semi-annually, in June and July. Boxes of by-Laws, &c., furnished on application.

BOARD OF MANAGERS:

GEO. A. BERRY, President.
JOHN SCOTT, JAS. PARK, Jr., Vice Presidents.
D. E. MCKINLEY, Secretary and Treasurer.
A. Bradley, J. L. Graham, A. K. Ball, Wm. K. Nimick, Jos. S. Dilworth, F. Rahn, G. Follansbee, Joshua Rhodes, S. H. Hartman, Robert G. Schmertz, Christopher Ege, John H. Ralfe, Solicitor.

THE BECKWITH $20

Portable

FAMILY SEWING MACHINE

On 30 Days' Trial,

With strength and capacity equal to any, regardless of cost. This Machine does away with all complications, and with the assistance of ONLY TWO PARTS (the Needle and Looper), both simple and strong, it makes the Stitch, feeds the Goods, half guides the Cloth, fastens the Seam, sews on Braid, Gathers and Tucks, Hems and Embroiders. REMEMBER, the movement of only two parts does all this, which entirely does away with all the complications so liable to get out of order, and so often the cause of annoyance to the operator, besides the ruinous expenditure of force in propelling them. Our Sandfeeding Head requires the assistance of only one hand or even one finger, thus leaving the right hand entirely at liberty to pilot the wheel, which runs easy and even as a well balanced wheel, with

No Toilsome Tread of the Treadle.

Orders promptly filled on receipt of $20. Beckwith Sewing Machine Co., 5492 Broadway, New York. MWF

DRY GOODS.

DRY GOODS,

FOR

Holiday Presents!

AT

Panic Prices,

AT

McKEE'S.

Furs, Furs, Furs,

For Holiday Presents,

AT PANIC PRICES.

Beautiful Shawls and Cloaks

FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS,

AT PANIC PRICES!

AT

McKee's.

A great variety of Choice Goods, suitable for HOLIDAY PRESENTS, are now offered at PANIC PRICES, at the GREAT CASH SALE, at

M'KEE'S,

No. 59 Market Street.

SPECIAL

BARGAINS!

Cheaper than Ever!

BUY NOW

As Goods Will Certainly Advance.

OUR STOCK IS STILL FULL AND COMPLETE.

MANY GOOD BARGAINS IN OUR DRESS GOODS DEPARTMENT MARKED DOWN TO STILL LOWER PRICES TO CLOSE OUT.

CALL AND SEE

Our 12½c Dress Goods.
Our 15c Dress Goods.
Our 18¾c Dress Goods.
Our 20c Dress Goods.
Our 25c Dress Goods.

All about one-half former prices; some Splendid Bargains among them.

SPECIAL BARGAINS!

At 8c, Good Dark Ginghams.
At 10c, Wide Sheeting Muslins.
At 12½c, Lonsdale Bleached Muslins.
At 8c, Some of the Best Prints.
At 18¾c, Good Styles Tycoon Repps.
At 25c, Wide Merino Plaids.
At 50c, All-Wool Colored Merinos.

Furs, Furs, Furs, Furs.
Muffs, Muffs, Muffs, Muffs.
Boas, Boas, Boas, Boas.
Sets, Sets, Sets, Sets.

TO CLOSE OUT

At Very Low Prices,

A. W. ERWIN & Co

172 and 174

Federal Street, Allegheny

26 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh.

FALL STYLES

SILK HATS!

Broadway and Trade Styles.

Fur, Cassimere and Wool

HATS.

SILK, CLOTH AND FUR

CAPS.

Full Line, all the New Styles in Market.

R. H. PALMER,

151 WOOD ST.

P. S.—New Goods Received Daily.

Bailey & Co.

CHESTNUT and 12th Sts.,

PHILADA.,

DEALERS

IN

**Diamonds

FINANCE AND TRADE.

TUESDAY EVENING, December 30, 1873.

Inquiries continue to prevail for short time paper, notes with collateral having the decided preference and commanding the minimum rate of the market, which may be quoted at about ten per cent.

Few cases of severe stringency are to be found in our city or neighborhood, as most if not all of the business houses have contracted their expenditures and are both to engage in fresh enterprises requiring investments of and considerable amount of capital.

From this reason we may expect less business disasters in connection with the January settlements than might have otherwise been looked for, as it is pretty hard to break up men after they have gotten things nearly or quite to a cash basis.

We hear rumors of a very general feeling among the stockholders of our banks, National and otherwise, to overhaul their board of directors and to place such as during the recent panic have not proven right feal to the trust reposed in them upon the retired list. Many directors of institutions in this locality have heretofore regarded these positions as purely honorary, and have not considered that there were obligations of any magnitude resting upon them to attend to the conduct and security of the concerns with which they were connected. Acting on this belief, they have entrusted the management entirely to a chosen few from among their number, apart from whom the directors at large could hardly have answered the most simple question with regard to the affairs of their institutions. Recent events have proven that while, when these trusts are reposed in men of ability and integrity, the result has been prosperity and success; yet when, on the other hand, the parties selected were not such as were deemed worthy of especial confidence, the consequences have been dangerous, and, in some instances, still fresh in the public mind, disastrous to the last degree. A full examination has been making into the affairs of nearly every bank in the city, and the result will be that the elections to take place in January will probably be the most exciting that we have seen for many years. In not a few banks, two tickets will be run, and matters will not be permitted to take the customary "smooth-bore" course. These matters are not in advance of any great interest to the general public, but their results are not only of interest, but also of importance, for the question as to who handle the reins of finance affects alike the lender and the borrower, and to one of these two great classes nearly every active man in the community belongs.

That changes will be made in certain quarters is already a foregone conclusion, and while not wishing to depart from our journalistic position for the purpose of either giving advice or expressing our preferences, we think it quite as well that some of the changes already hinted at should be made. We should be going too far did we venture to indicate, no matter how vaguely, the particular instances which have been brought to our notice.

§ In the New York market stock, continue active and in good demand. Lake Shore, Central and Panama have all advanced in price, while St. Paul, for a long time under a cloud is again attracting attention.

A lively trade is prosecuting in the old railroad mortgage bonds, as all new railroad bonds are off the market and investors are therefore compelled to turn their attention to such as are on the list of the Stock Exchange. The amount outstanding legal tenders is now $377,191,000, being an increase of about $150,000, since the last quotation. The New York tanks continue to gain in specie, legal tenders and deposits, and the net reserve has increased nearly a million and a half in the past two weeks, while the discount line has extended a million of dollars in the same period.

—For the information of the many unfortunate holders of the bonds of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, we gather and publish so much of a circular proposition made by the company to bondholders and other of its creditors. The company, it is generally known, is unable to pay the January interest, just now maturing. To the bondholders it proposes—st. To fund its interest due January 1, 1874, July 1, 1874, and January 1, 1875, in a five-year interest land warrant coupon bond, bearing seven per cent. currency interest, payable semi-annually, January 1 and July 1 of each year, the first coupon, however, to mature January 1, 1875. 2d. To make the interest land warrant bonds receivable at any time before April 1, 1877, at par in payment for any of the company's lands lying in present unsurveyed road east of the Missouri river and north of the Columbian river, the price of the lands for this purpose to be twenty-five per cent. less than the regular cash or bond prices; they will also be received at par, and accrued interest, in exchange for the first mortgage bonds of the company at par, and accrued interest, at any time before April 1, 1875. 3d. To deposit in escrow, uncancelled, with S. Kennedy Cass, trustee, all coupons and interest certificates which may be funded in the proposed five year interest land warrant bonds; but if the company shall make certain in payment of moneys or principal of said interest land warrant bonds, as it matures, the holders of the bonds may, at their option, surrender them (with all coupons attached) to the trustee named above, and receive back the coupons or orders for interest, the same close as surrendered, for which said interest land warrant bonds were given. Bonds are to only be given for amounts less than one hundred dollars, convertible into interest land warrant bonds, when aggregated in amounts of one hundred dollars and multiples thereof. The denominations of the interest land warrant bonds are one hundred, five hundred and one thousand dollars each. Coupons may be presented in person, or sent by mail, to the company's office, New York. Should any bondholder prefer to fund only six or twelve months' interest at first this can be done. The floating debt of the company on the 17th instant, unprovided for, was stated at $437,000.—Philadelphia Ledger.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street:

December 30, 1872.	10:20 11 30 A.M.	12:20 1:30 P.M.	2:30 3:30 P.M.
Gold	110½	110	110⅝ 110⅝ 110⅝
Canton	73½	73¾	73¾ 73¾ 73¾
Western Union Tele'h	72¾	72¾	72¾ 72¾ 72¾
Quicksilver	28	28	28 28 28
Pacific Mail	28	28¼	28¼ 28⅝ 28⅝
Adams Express	95	95	95 95 95
Wells, Fargo & Co	66	66	66 66 66
American Express	57½	57½	57½ 57½ 57½
United States Express	69	69	69 69 69
New York Central	96½	96½	96½ 96½ 96½
Erie	45	45	45 45 45
Michigan Central	93	93	93 93 93
Michigan Southern	76½	76½	76½ 76½ 76½
Illinois Central	120	120	120 120 120
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	93½	93½	93½ 93½ 93½
Chicago & Northwestern	81	81	81 81 81
Do preferred	89½	89½	89½ 89½ 89½
Rock Island	99½	99½	99½ 99½ 99½
St. Paul	41¾	41¾	41¾ 41¾ 41¾
Do preferred	65	65	65 65 65
Wabash	45¾	45¾	45¾ 45¾ 45¾
Do preferred	70	70	70 70 70
Fort Wayne	100	100	100 100 100
Ohio and Mississippi	37½	38	38 38 38
Union Pacific	30	30	30 30 30
Chicago and Alton	101½	101½	101½ 101½ 101½
Boston, Hartf'd and Erie	7	7	7 7 7
Marion	118½	119	119 119 119

—The following are the quotations for Government and State bonds received by wire from New York to-day:

GOVERNMENTS.	Morn.	Noon.	Even.
1881, coupons	119½	120	120⅛
5-20s, 1862	113⅝	113⅝	113⅝
5-20s, 1864	114⅛	114⅛	114⅛
5-20s, 1865	115⅛	115⅛	115⅛
5-20s, new	118⅝	118⅝	118⅝
5-20s, 1867	119⅛	119	119
5-20s, 1868	118⅝	118⅝	119⅛
10-40s	110⅝	110⅝	110⅝
10-40s, coupons	111⅛	112	111⅞
Currency 6s	113⅝	113⅝	114⅛
New 6s	110½	110⅝	111
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessees	80½	80	80
Tennessee, new	81	80	80
South Carolinas, July	7	7	7
Missouri 6s	93	95	95

—Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna. R. R.	46¾
Penna. scrip	92¾
Reading	87⅛
United Co's N J	116
Oil Creek	19½
Lehigh Valley	58
A. V. R. R. 7-30	99
Central Transportation	12
P., C. and St. Louis 7s	70

IRON MARKETS.

CINCINNATI.

[Reported by Addy, Hull & Co.]

December 30.—There has been but little activity in the market during past week, and we know of no considerable sales. Prices generally appear firmer, with less disposition on the part of holders to sell. Buyers are bold, yet not having much confidence in any advance.

LOUISVILLE.

December 29.—A greater degree of firmness has been developed in nearly all metals and manufactured goods, the former being considered by dealers a good material to speculate or invest at the ruling figures, which are said to be below the cost of production, and the latter running down in stocks, by reason of the collection of the outstanding accounts, all the large establishments south and west of Pittsburgh having suspended operations, with only one exception. The demand is limited but is beginning to improve.

Pig Iron.—We quote as follows:

Hanging Rock Foundry—	
Extra No. 1	$41@42
No. 1 C&K pig iron	40@41
No. 2 foundry	34@35
No. 2 or mill	32@33
No. 1 Tennessee foundry	38@39
No. 2 foundry	33@34
No. 2 or mill	31@32
No. 1 stonecoal foundry Missouri Red S	40@41
No. 2 stonecoal foundry Missouri Red S	38@39
No. 2 or Mill foundry, Missouri Red S	36@37
C C Car-wheel Iron—	
Ohio Hecla	65@
No. 1 Red River cold-blast	60@61
No. 2 Red River and Cottage	60@61
Nos. 1 and 2 Red River and Cottage	60@61
Nos. 5 and 6 or white iron	60@61
C C Tennessee car wheel—	
No. 1 Dover cold blast	56@58
No. 2 Dover cool blast	56@58
White and mottled	56@58

Horse and Mule Shoes.—We quote horse shoes at $6 75@7 25 and mule shoes at $7 75@8 25 per keg, standard brands.

Iron, Wrought.—We quote the card rate as follows: Bar, S. C. $3 50@3 90; C. C., $4 70@4 90; nail-rod, Swede, 9¾@10c.

Nails.—We quote: 10d nails fence and brads at $4 10@10 large lots and $4 50 on small sales—all other sizes in proportion.

Iron Wings and Slabs.—We quote as follows: Steel plow-slabs are held at 9c; steel plow-wings at 9½c.

Steel.—We quote as follows: Cast, per lb, English, Blister; American, 18c; German 15@18c.—Courier-Journal.

Toledo Market.

TOLEDO, December 30.—Flour—Demand fair and market firm. Wheat active and prices advanced; No 3 white Wabash $1 50; amber Michigan $1 50a 1 51, seller January $1 51½; No 1 red $1 53½. Corn—Demand fair and market firm; high mixed 52½c, seller February 52½c; new 51¾c. Oats quiet; No 2, 38½c.

Oswego Market.

OSWEGO, December 30.—Wheat dull; No. 1 Milwaukee, $1 55. Corn quiet at 75c. Barley dull and unchanged.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, TUESDAY, December 30, 1873.

REMARKS.—The weather is cold, and the indications are that it will remain so for some time. The markets are much the same as at our last report, being, if any, change in prices being noticeable. The difficulty between the employees and the railroad officials has not yet been adjusted, hence freights are irregular and few and far between, as our impression is will attest.

Brow will be found the receipts of the leading articles of produce for the past twenty-four hours:

Flour, bbls	1,297	Apples, bbls	110
Corn, sacks	2,916	Wheat, sacks	243
Barley, sacks	1,727	Rye, sacks	173
Oats, sacks	517	Millst'f, pkgs	40
Bacon, pcs	6,000	Potatoes, bushels	750

The following are the current rates for flour: State amber wheat, $5 25@5 85; State red wheat, $7 75@8 00; Fancy St. Louis, $9 25@9 75; Fancy Kentucky white wheat, $5 60; Good Ohio red wheat, $8 00; Wisconsin Spring wheats, $7 25; Minnesota Spring wheats, $7 75; Rye flour, $5 25.

Grain is in light receipt and prices nominally as follows: Wheat—Red winter, $1 55@1 60; $1 65@1 70 for amber and white. Oats—Prime white, 53@54c, and mixed, 48@49c. Corn—Prime yellow, shelled, 70@75c; mixed, 68@70c; old ear, 70@72c; and new from 62@70c. Rye is held at 85@90c.

There is no change in bacon and prices are as follows: Extra sugar cured, 9½c; breakfast bacon, sugar cured, 11½c; dried beef, extra sugar cured, 15½c; bacon shoulders, 8¾c; rib sides, 9c; short rib sides, 9½c; clear sides 10c; mess pork $17 00 per bbl; prime leaf in tierces, 9¾c per lb; prime leaf in half bbls, 10c; prime leaf in buckets, 10¾c; refined for summer use in tierces, 9¾c; do in half bbls, 10c; do in buckets, 10½c; refined in 3 5 cadties, 11c; do in 5 5 cadties, 11½c; do in 3 5 pails, 12c; in 6 3 pails, 12½c; ham sausage, 10c.

We omit extended quotations to-day.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, December 31, 1873.

REMARKS.—Dealers report the market steady, with a good trade demand. The firmness we have before noted has been maintained. Holders refuse to make concessions in order to effect sales. The result was transactions were limited.

CRUDE.

In this market there has been no change in prices for some days. The asking rates were 8¾@9c. The following transactions were reported at

PARKER'S.

1,000 bbls Untied	9¾c
1,000 bbls Union	$1 02½
500 bbls Union	1 00

For prices in the oil regions, see dispatches.

REFINED.

Prices have undegone no change. Sales were reported free on cars at the works at 18@18½c.

Philadelphia.—Spot 18¾c; January 18½c; February 18½c; March, April and May 18¾c.

New York—Spot 13¾@18½c.

OIL BARRELS.

Market quiet; city $1 90; country $1 80@1 85.

TITUSVILLE, December 30.—The "Courier" says: There was no material change in the petroleum markets. On upper road the market was $1 12@$1 15 for spot. The market in Oil City was $1 05. Parker's market was quiet and unchanged, United selling 95c; and Union 94@95c. Some refined market is in sight, and 16@16½c is current. Sales:

1,500 bbls, upper road, spot	1 12½		
500 bbls, upper road, spot	1 12½		
1,000 bbls, upper road, spot	1 15		
2,000 bbls, upper road, spot	1 15		
1,000 bbls, Oil City, spot	1 10		
1,000 bbls, Parkers, United pipe	94½		
1,000 bbls, Parkers, Caloh pipe	94½		
5,000 bbls Union	1 00		

PHILADELPHIA, December 30.—Market quiet; S. W. 12½@13c; crude 8½@9c; refined 18½@19c. Market

CITY MATTERS.

Slight Fire on the South Side.

About nine o'clock last evening an alarm of fire was given from box 134, South Side. I was caused by the discovery of flame in the building No. 1,106 Carson street. The house was being occupied by Mr. Dodds, as a billiard saloon, but has been empty for a few days. The fire was in the cellar and is believed to have been the work of an incendiary. The damage, owing to the prompt appearance of the firemen, did not amount to much.

A Candid Admission.

The evening *Ledger* of yesterday makes the following candid, though tardy, admission with reference to the report of the Committee of Councils on the transactions of the Board of Fire Commissioners: "In exonerating the Commission from the allegations of fraud, in praising the readiness, and indeed the anxious desire of its members to have their affairs thoroughly examined, and in certifying to the excellent state of efficiency in which they have kept and are keeping their department, the report does no more than justice to these gentlemen."

Evening School for Mechanics.

George J. Luckey, Esq., City Superintendent, gives notice of the establishment of an evening school for mechanics, which is to be opened Monday evening, January 5 h, 1874, at the Ralston school house, corner of Penn avenue and Fifteenth street. The school is designed to include instruction in mechanical drawing, and will be free to all comers between the ages of twelve and twenty-one years, who are residents of the city, and not in attendance at the day schools. The superintendent is anxious that the boys in our evening schools attend, to the end that the experiment may be given a fair test.

Recovery of Stolen Property.

The arrest of John Bruner for the larceny of goods and money from the store of his employer, Mr. J. M. Eccles, dry goods dealer, 1,117 Carson street, has already been reported. Yesterday a search warrant was issued by Squire Krehan, and Officer Moore searched the residence of Mr. Bruner, 117 Twelfth street, where a large quantity of stolen goods was found, including shirts, drawers, gloves, mackinS, towels, scarfs, underSleeves, and underwear, brocha shawls, pulse warmers, ladies' and gents' hose, Irish linen, calico prints, alpaca, flannel, flannel, belts, tassels, carpet, etc. A quantity of the goods had been made up into dresses for defendant's wife, and a number of the articles had been used. It is alleged that Bruner had a certificate from a former employer, vouching for his honesty, whereas he had been detected in dishonest acts by the very man who indorsed him as trustworthy. He has been in jail since his arrest on Saturday last.

Fire on Chatham Street.

Between four and five o'clock yesterday morning fire was discovered in the upper and rear portion of the dwelling of Geo. S. Dougherty, at No. 75 Chatham street. The key of the nearest box was broken in the hurry to open it, and the alarm had to be sounded from the next box, 1867, which caused several minutes' delay. Mr. Dougherty in the meantime removed his children, but was so hurried that they had not time to dress. The fire communicated to the house next door, occupied by George W. Stewart and owned by Mrs. Mc-Vay. Mr. Stewart and his family had time to partially dress themselves, but their exit was inconveniently hurried. The flames were finally quenched, but not before the entire upper and back portion of the house in which the fire originated had been destroyed, together with nearly all the family clothing and the household goods. The damage done at the other house was not so great. The total loss will reach a small amount to about $600, which is covered by insurance. The fire is supposed to have been caused by a coal dropping from the grate.

A Deserved Compliment.

At the adjournment of the Street Committee last evening Mr. Evan Jones, the chairman, was ively ed by members of the Committee from the Common Council chamber to the reception room where a very pleasant surprise awaited the gentleman named. An elegant silver set occupied the space upon one of the tables and S. P. Fulton Esq, stepped to the front and in a neat speech, on behalf of the committee, presented the ware to Mr. Jones as a testimonial of the respect and esteem which he is held. Mr. Jones ill accepted the elegant gift in a feeling speech in which he took occasion to thank the members not only for this evidence of their esteem but for the uniform kindness with which he had always been treated as chairman.

Speeches were also made by Messrs. Semple, Pearson, Jeremy and others, after which the committee resembled in Common Council chamber, where, on motion of Mr. Semple, the thanks of the committee were tendered the retiring Chairman. Clerk Both, the Street Commissioner and the city press. This was carried unanimously by a rising vote and elicited brief speeches from Chairman Jones, Uncle Booth, Mr. Hosac, Mr. John Nash of the *Freeman*, and J. P. O'Neill, of the *Post*, in behalf of the Press.

The compliment to Mr. Jones is a well deserved one, and we are pleased to note the good feeling of this important committee toward their retiring chairman. Mr. Jones has been an active councilman, and has always taken a lively interest in matters for the city. We extend to him our heartfelt good wishes in his retirement from public service.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House

"Life in the Streets" was played to a better house last night, and appeared to give good satisfaction. Mr. Gotthold in the principal role, does some very effective acting, making the most of all the telling situations furnished by the piece. Misses Wilmot and Baker sustain themselves well and are favorites with the audience. "Life in the Streets" will be repeated every evening this week, and at the matinees of New Year's day and Saturday.

Academy of Music.

"Fritz" Emmet drew an audience to see him last night, which filled every nook and cranny in the Academy, and invaded the orchestra, to the manifest disgust of the man who manipulates the "big fiddle." Even then all who applied for admission did not get in-hundreds being turned away.

"Our Cousin German" passed off with delightful unconstraint, the company having profited by experience. "Fritz" was the recipient of numerous marks of popular favor, the applause breaking out at short intervals throughout the performance. Hundreds of plays of greater intrinsic merit than this have proved utter failures; but they had no "Fritz" Emmet to infuse them with life. The opinion is almost unanimous that in this character Mr. E. ranks with Joe Jefferson's "Rip Van Winkle."

The comedy will hold the boards this evening, and at the matinee to-morrow afternoon. Secure seats in advance at Hale's, 193 Smithfield street, or at the Academy box-office.

Tribble's Varieties.

The Japanese Wonder, the claire sisters, remarkably supple contortionists, and the other members of Gardner and Tribble's army of artists, will appear at the matinee, this afternoon, and again this evening. Remember, too, that there will be a New Year's matinee.

STEAMBOATMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

An Appropriation to be Asked for Harbor Purposes, Etc.

The Steamboatmen's Association held a meeting yesterday, in the Coal Exchange rooms, Mr. Bigley in the chair, and Mr. A. Lyste, Secretary.

On motion, Mr. J. F. Dravo and Mr. R. C. Gray were appointed a committee to memb rialize Congress, and ask an appropriation of $25,000 for harbor purposes within the limits of the city of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Bailey presented the following:

Resolved, That all first-class boats be assessed $25, all second-class $15, and all harbor boats $15, to defray the expenses of the Steamboatmen's Association; and that the Treasurer, Mr. Bailey, be authorized to employ assistance to collect the same. After the transaction of some other business of minor importance, the Association, on motion, adjourned.

MASONIC OFFICERS INSTALLED.

Appointments in Western Pennsylvania.

The Grand Lodge of A. Y. M. met at the new temple on Broad street, Philadelphia, on Saturday, and after the transaction of the usual routine business, the following officers were installed: R. W. Grand Master—Alfred R. Kelly. R. W. Deputy Grand Master—Robt. Clark. R. W. S. Grand Warden—James M. Porter. R. W. J. Grand Warden—Michael Nisbet. R. W. Grand Secretary—John Thompson. R. W. Grand Treasurer—Thos. R. Patton. Trustees of the Grand Lodge Charity Fund—Joseph S. Riley, Jacob Laudenslager, George Grisom, Daniel Britton and John Handwell. Trustees of Girard Bequest—Samuel H. Perkins, James Hutchinson, Charles M. Prevost, Geo. Thomson, Henry C. Howell and Dr. Jacob Roberts. Grand Tyler—Harrison G. Clark.

The annual Chapter communication was held on the same evening at the same place when the following Grand Officers were elected:

M. E. High Priest, Companion Andrew Reed, Jr.; Grand King, Companion Robert Wilson, D. D.; Grand Scribe, Companion Chas. E. Wagner; Grand Treasurer, Companion Thomas R. Patton; Grand Secretary, Companion John Thomson.

After the installation, the Grand High Priest announced a number of appointments, from which we gleam the following names of Companions in the western counties.

Grand Chaplain—Rev. J. J. McIlvar. Members of Committee on Correspondence—Hon. Jas. B. Hopkins, District Deputy Grand Priests—Comp. Edward H. Turner, of Saxton, for counties of Bair, Cambria, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Bedford and Fulton.

Comp. William Chatland, of Brownsville, for counties of Washington, Fayette, Greene and Somerset.

Comp. Geter C. Shidle, of Pittsburgh, for counties of Allegheny, Westmoreland, Armstrong, Butler, Indiana and Beaver.

Comp. Madison M. Meredith, of Beaverville, for counties of Clearfield and Jefferson.

Comp. Christian M. Hoover, of Franklin, for counties of Carion, Venango and Warren.

Comp. Frank H. Porter, of Meadville, for counties of Mercer, Lawrence, Crawford and Erie.

THE WATER ENGINEERS.

The "Strike" Between the Mechanical and the Civil.

The Lowry Engines in Question.

Opinions of Experts on Engines

Were the Bids Tampered With?

Another Session of the Finance Committee—The Trouble Between the Civil and the Mechanical Engineers Further Ventilated—Bidders on Stone Work and Engine Building.

The Finance Committee of Pittsburgh Councils for the year Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three may well congratulate itself that its period of existence as a body is near a close, notwithstanding the fact that the exact date of its demise is disputed. While, of all committees, its duties are the most important and generally onerous, it has, during the past two months, been doing more than the work of ordinary years, and from present appearances it would appear the body that is to come into existence as its successor in a week or two will have a "continuance of the same." The Water Commission muddle has no end and the efforts of the committee to unravel the matter only bring to deeper water as the work progresses. The bond question having been disposed of, at least for the time, trouble arises between the engineers and a warm fight has been inaugurated which bids fair to assume huge proportions.

The committee having been largely informed and instructed in the issue and handling of bonds and in the, apparently, prevailing mode of banking in our city, are now to learn "how it is themselves" in the matter of contracts, in the construction of steam stationary engines and in hydraulics generally.—Whether the public will be edified or not is to be seen. The committee met last evening to continue the investigation, the opening session of which we reported yesterday. A lon, wait was rendered necessary for lack of a quorum, and the time was taken up in consultation with Mr. W. Milnor Roberts as to the probable cost of an examination by experts with, a view of estimating the actual value of the work already done on the new water works.

A quorum having been obtained, Mr. Phillips asked whether the committee would employ Mr. Roberts, together with a sufficient corps, to re-measure and estimate the work of construction already done. Colonel Phillips explained that Mr. Roberts had, after a short examination, estimated the expense at from $1,600 to $1,500, and that it would take about one month to complete it.

On motion the committee decided to employ Mr. Roberts and a sufficient corps of engineers and that gentleman stated that he would proceed at once to the work.

The examination of witnesses was then proceeded with on the part of Civil Engineer Kennedy, of the Water Commission. Mr. Joseph L. Lowry, Mechanical Engineer, was present, and through Mr. Negley, cross-examined the witnesses. The first witness called was John Megraw, the well known contractor of Allegheny, who testified as follows:

TESTIMONY OF JOHN MEGRAW.

John Megraw, sworn and examined: Was one of the bidders for the masonry of the new engine house: it was in the summer, had talk with Mr. Watson and Mechanical Engineer Lowry; Mr. Lowry simply talked to me about the quality of the work, gave him a copy of the specification of the Tripartite bridge; talked to him frequently; he came to me with a specification of the work made by Mr. Lowry; talked with Mr. Ross about it; got some information from different persons about the work, think for the rubble masonry I bid at $4.70, and for the other I believe my bid was next above the lowest bidder; Mr. Lowry in conversation said he would do what he could for me; told him if he arranged the quantities I would get the work; in the fall of 1872 here he agreed to arrange the figures; I left him believing I would get the bid; next day he began making excuses, calling Mr. Burgwin and Mr. Campbell names, and said the only men he could trust in the Commission were Mr. Watson and Mr. Laufman; was told that Mr. Lowry had said that he was sorry that he didn't do so and so, or the thing would be all right; I afterwards got both Ross and Lowry that both could go to the d—l; they both professed to be my friends, and would do what they didn't get me the contract; I told them I didn't owe any favors of them a d—n cent, and they could go to the devil; I said after seeing the testimony here that I was a fool ever to have asked quantities to be changed; no one of the Commissioners ever got anything from me, or asked or expected it.

NO BRIBES FOR CONTRACTS.

When I take contracts I take them "clear," and don't offer a cent; if I choose to give any one $1,000 or so it is an after matter, and I don't bind myself in any such thing; I tried to get stone from Howard and could not; Mr. Kennedy told Howard that he had better go to spare, and the latter was to see me afterward but did not come after me; never saw the work that has been done; $5 75 was a fair price for rubble work in cellars at that time, but for this work it was worth $1 to $1 50; think it was out of Mr. Lowry's business to make estimates on stone work; I felt Mr. Lowry to be friendly; we always go to friends for aid in anything.

Wm. P. Shinn, of the Edgar Thompson steel works, sworn—Am a civil engineer, for years; have not been the excavations or any of the work for the new water works, and know nothing personally about them; never saw the engines or specifications.

This witness was dismissed as knowing nothing regarding the controversy. He was subsequently recalled and detailed what other engineers thought of Lowry's engines at the Birmingham water works.

AN OPINION BY AN ENGINEER.

Mr. N. K. Wake, sworn—Have had conversations with the commissioners in regard to the building of the engines; gave Mr. Ross a list of about seven firms in the East that might build the machinery; think I made request of one party to make a bid; the list was furnished by request, and in giving it in writing I said I didn't think he would get a bid, as I did not believe that any one would attempt to build the engines.

In answer to a question by Mr. Phillips, Mr. Wake said he judged others by himself, and as he believed the engines would not be a success, and no manufacturer would want to associate himself with an unsuccessful engine. Witness explained his idea of the Birmingham engines (Lowry's), which he thought were vertical, while these are to be horizontal.

In the opinion of witness, the defect in the engines are want of balance and in the pistons, causing a varying shock. Other objections were also mentioned, the power being transmitted through too many channels; also, that the lift to the highest reservoir was too great. witness had not submitted a plan for engines, but by request furnished drawings of the St. Louis engines with adaptations needed, in his opinion, had a letter signed by Mr. Lowry in regard to the matter, but was instructed directly by the Commission; I did not recommend the engine as used at the St. Louis engines; the second set of engines should have cost more than the first, yet I have understood that they cost less; the contractors having the patterns would cause less cost; at the second letting I think iron was lower, but not enough to have made the difference; after the contract had been let I wrote asking the Commission to return my drawings.

THE ATLAS WORKS BID.

Wm. B. Sterrett sworn: Am employed at the Atlas works and helped to make the estimates for the building of the engines for the new water works; the amount was about $350,000 or $360,000, and afterwards added some $90,000 as royalty for values, transportation, placing, etc.; the specification called for exemption of cost of patents, etc., as far as the city was concerned; we made the addition because we got scared on account of patents; never had any conversation with Lowry or Ross, or any person of the water commission in relation to royalty; Mr. Lowry explained specifications; we are making the center piece for the bed for Mr. Hartupee; I think the part we are making is well proportioned for the strain to be put upon it; I think it a neat form and style for the bed plate; we didn't know what to calculate as to payments to patentees; never asked Mr. Lowry what his charges would be; Mr. Sadsler from the same works testified similarly to the previous witness, and stated that Mr. Lowry said there might be something to pay for using it; he didn't know to whom or how much; Mr. Lowry wanted Mr. Miller and Mr. Hartupee to settle upon one price; he did not intimate what Mr. Hartupee's price was; don't think Mr. Lowry had his engines worked, or the cut off; was employed by the Water Commission to examine the plans and with Mr. Paul we made changes, we made report in writing; Mr. Lowry said he would like to see Mr. Miller before he put in his bid, but he didn't say what for; Mr. Lowry wanted me to bid independent of Mr. Miller; he did not offer me anything nor did I offer him anything; did not ask Mr. Lowry what would be the probable amount of the cost to patentee; Mr. Lowry told me to tell Mr. Miller not to close his bid until he (Miller) came down.

A COMMISSIONER AGAIN EXAMINED.

Mr. Laufman was called to testify as to the bids for the engines. He stated that at the request of Mr. Carroll the opening of the bids was postponed over one night. The box was in the safe, locked up, and in charge, he supposed, of the Secretary. The room was accessible to the officials. I understood that Mr. Carroll was there that evening. When we opened them they did not have the appearance of being tampered with; envelopes were printed upon, and would have been opened and another one could be placed upon bids; don't know exactly how they were sealed; don't know that Mr. Hartupee was in the room that evening; was told that Mr. H. had been seen on the street together with others.

ICE CREAM FOR THREE.

Was told that Mr. Carroll, Mr. Hartupee, Mr. Ross and Mr. Kennedy met upon the street and went and had ice cream; don't know anything about it personally; Mr. Schneller told me of it; we had the plans submitted to several parties; Mr. Crozier's opinion was against the adoption of Mr. Lowry's engines; he thought them not well proportioned in their parts; two of the engineers from New York approved the plans, and another said while he approved the engines he could not approve the high lift; Mr. Crozier submitted a plan; my impression is that Mr. Paul and Mr. Sadler approved Mr. Lowry's plan; we asked engineers everywhere we met them, and generally, so far as I recollect, they did not condemn the plans; the change in location of the works farther into the river was made after the contract was let.

WERE THE ENVELOPES TAMPERED WITH?

Mr. Miller, recalled—There was no mark on the envelope containing our bid; it was a printed envelope furnished and could not have been changed. Mr. Lowry did not ask me to put my bid at $350,000; I declined to tell him anything about it that evening; I did say that Mr. Lowry ought to have a royalty; did not suggest ways to fix it; I said to Mr. Lowry that he had a patent and when the Commission adopted it the matter should be fixed as to amount so that the city would know the cost; had a conversation with Mr. Lowry when he gave it to be the fact that there would likely be but Mr. Hartupee and ourselves, and I declined to have anything to do with other parties; Mr. Lowry gave me to understand that each might get an engine.

Jacob Schenneller sworn: Did not see Mr. Ross, Mr. Hartupee and any of the Water Commissioners together on the night the bids were to be opened; I went home half an hour after they were to be put in; was in the city again the next day; did not state that I saw these parties at an ice cream together; Mr. Ross told me of this; that they had been in the room and that they had gone with Mr. Hartupee and got ice cream; he did not tell me that Mr. Hartupee was in the room; Mr. Ross, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Carroll were together I understood.

THAT "ESTIMATE" FOR PIPES.

Mr. W. H. Kennedy was recalled, and, in answer to questions, stated that on the night in question he and Mr. Ross were in the room, and Mr. Carroll came in; did not see Mr. Hartupee there; Mr. Hartupee was not with us in the ice cream saloon. It was the first time I witness at that time to be in the office almost every night at work. The bids were not tampered with; don't believe that they could not have been; the bids were in the box and in the custody of the Secretary, Mr. Ross. Witness denied positively certain statements relative to an estimate for $50,000, said to be given to Mr. Smith. He explained that at the request of Mr. Roland H. Smith he had given a certificate that a certain amount of pipe had been accepted, and at the contract price it would amount to —— dollars.

Controller Snodgrass produced the certificate mentioned which agreed with Mr. Kennedy's statement, and upon which Controller McCowan had advanced $40,000. Asserted that it is an endorsement of its correctness signed John Ross, secretary. Mr. Kennedy stated that he did not know the use it was to be put to, and that if he did he could not have claimed it. It was not a formal estimate, but simply a memorandum of the amount due as requested of him.

The testimony here closed, and after the transaction other business elsewhere note I the committee adjourned to meet again on Friday evening, when testimony in behalf of Mr. Lowry will be taken.

THE ENGINEERS' STRIKE.

Both Sides Still Determined to Hold Out—Amicable Adjustment of Matters on the Valley Road—Meeting of the Strikers.

There were not many new developments yesterday in reference to the engineers' strike. There is still a determination on the part both of railroad officials and engineers to hold out. The officials claim that they will soon be able to supply the places of every striker, and with most of them that is the case, either in skill or knowledge, to the old hands. They give proof of their assertion, too, by beginning to transport their freight. The Pan Handle road is probably most seriously affected, but even on that road all the passenger trains are running, and yesterday four freight trains left Pittsburgh. The managers of the road claim that they are using every precaution for the safety of the passengers, and that there is no danger in traveling over the road now.

The officials of the

ALLEGHENY VALLEY ROAD

held another consultation with their engineers yesterday, and matters were arranged satisfactorily to both parties. A high compliment the officials of this road. They claim that there would have been no difficulty on the other roads had their officials treated them in as gentlemanly a manner. Yesterday a meeting of the engineers of the Pennsylvania Central was held at the corner of Penn and Twenty-second streets. The roll was called, and a motion for the committee sent off to consult with Colonel Scott, but at the latest reports nothing definite had been heard, nor had the committee arrived at a decision as to the advisedness of striking, should the Central officials not comply with the request of the committee. It was reported that a mass meeting would be held last night, but as late as 1 A. M. the meeting was a failure. Not more than seven or eight persons were present. A large number of the strikers held

ANOTHER MEETING

in Odd Fellows' Hall, Manchester, yesterday afternoon. They expressed their determination to still hold out, and many of them confidently believe that they will soon be reinstated to their positions. The meeting was orderly, as, indeed, all their gatherings at that place have been. Numbers of them—both engineers and firemen—made brief addresses, giving their views on the situation and mutually encouraging one another to hold out. President Sample called the meeting to order, and said he "was glad to see so many present. The committee has been busy and had followed the advice given them at the previous meeting, in not going about the round house and in acting orderly and like gentlemen. We are not whipped yet, by this work, gentlemen. We have cheering news from the West and North; have received several telegrams, and have consulted with several committees from the North. A dispatch from Indianapolis reads: 'Say to the men that the men at this point are firm to a man.' The committee was from Meadville and add offer us their sympathy, and if necessary their support. Am sorry that things are working so badly on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago road. They have had their engines burnt up. Do not like to see this loss of property to the road, but their green hands will burn up all their power. The reward offered for confusion is very important. We have entered into no conspiracy. If any man thinks I have been in a conspiracy let him come, take me and claim his thousand dollars. If he can prove me guilty of conspiracy.

ENGINEER KEEK'S REMARKS.

Mr. Kerr, of the Pan Handle road, was next introduced, and remarked: "The men at Dennison are still firm. The riot at Dennison was of no magnitude, and was the result of a misunderstanding. All the men are properly behaving themselves now. Have received from the head-quarters of the Blacksmiths and Mechanics Union requests their members not to put over any trial portions of the engines or reports before presenting them for publication.

As there was nothing further to be done, Mr. Megraw embraced the occasion to give his views in a few remarks, in which he sedately did not indorse matters. He called attention to the way things were run about City Hall, stating that some of the officials were a disgrace to the city and were wandering around like sheep. He characterized the Police Committee on which he had served as the meanest one he had ever been upon while in his life. He warned the citizens not to send politicians to Council, characterizing them as a pack of dirty curs, or words to similar effect. He then put in a word for the Birmingham engines, and advised the city to elect only men who understood the city affairs to transact their business, pursued in a Pan Handle fashion, would ruin the city